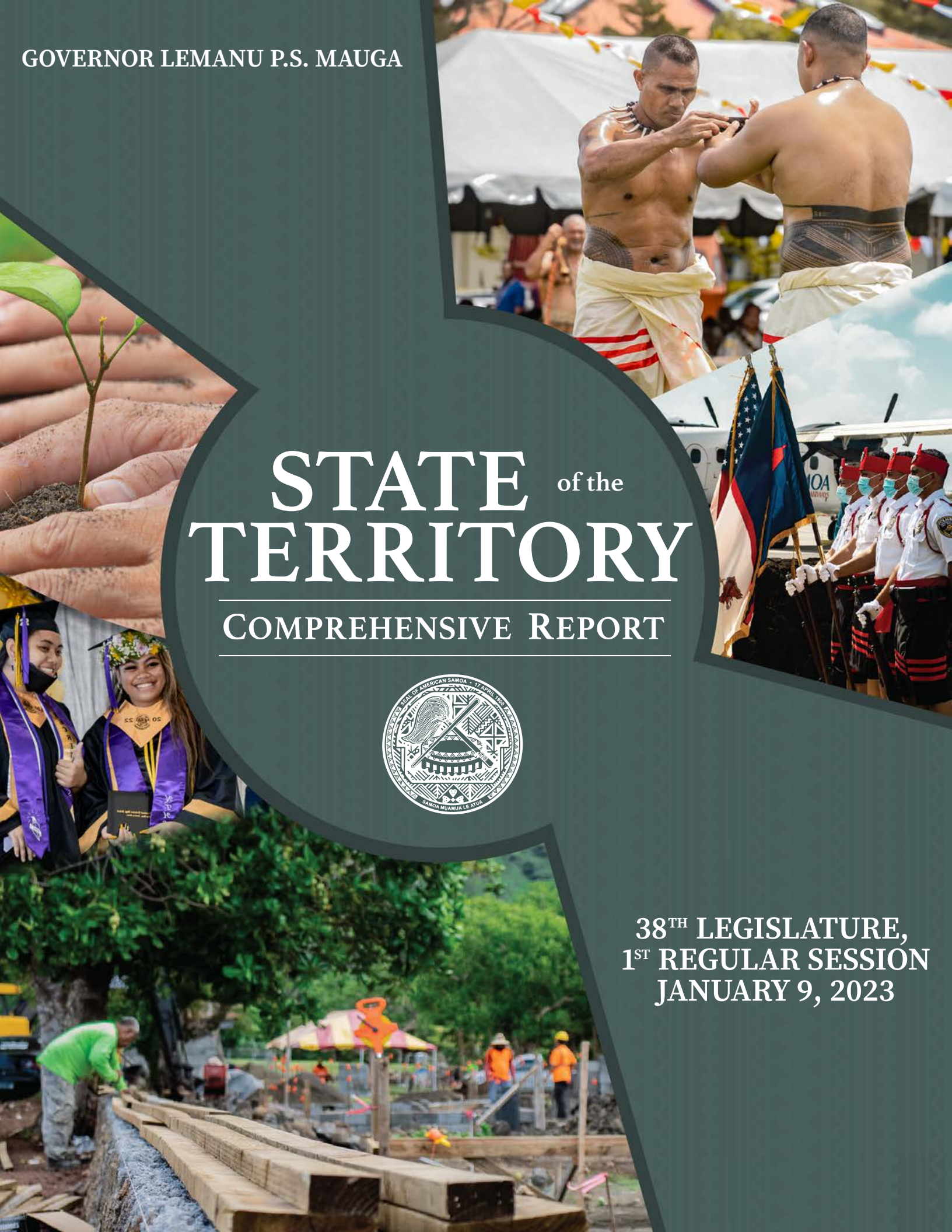


GOVERNOR LEMANU P.S. MAUGA

STATE of the
TERRITORY
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT



38TH LEGISLATURE,
1ST REGULAR SESSION
JANUARY 9, 2023





**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

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Governor's Foreword

As we conclude our second year in office, our Administration confronted unprecedented global challenges that continue to impact our way of life in the Territory. Namely, the COVID-19 pandemic and its evolving variants that made its way into the Pacific and breached our shores. While we mourn and grieve the loss of family members, friends, and loved ones due to COVID-19, we were fortunate that our vaccination rates minimized the effect of the threat. I commend the hard work of our COVID-19 Task force, frontline healthcare workers, and first responders to protect and preserve lives and restore normalcy to our Territory. Through their tireless efforts as well as our Federal and Territorial partners, and the support of the community, our pandemic response is a testament to our resolve and exceptional ability to come together in times of crisis. While the worst of the Omicron outbreak is now behind us, we acknowledge the lasting impacts of the pandemic as we enter a period of long-term recovery. Coupled with the threat of climate change, it is imperative that we draw from lessons learned and best practices to build a safer, healthier, and more resilient community.

I am grateful to all who answered the call to serve on the Constitutional review committee and who were selected as delegates to the Sixth Constitutional Convention. While the outbreak posed challenges and delays to the Constitutional review process — leaders, staff and members of the community leveraged technology and put forth the time, effort, and resources to educate and encourage the public to participate in these important discussions. Matters of self-government, political parity, and administrative changes were on the ballot. In a historic midterm election, eleven constitutional amendments were proposed and five were ultimately passed by the will of the people.

This State of the Territory Comprehensive Report highlights the results of our combined efforts to strengthen our economy and improve the quality of life for American Samoa. While much has been accomplished in 2022; we are cognizant of the reality that we have only just begun our work, and that much work remains ahead. We are committed to improving public programs and services as we endeavor toward building a government that is more responsive to our community's needs and building a foundation upon which future generations can thrive.

Lieutenant Governor Talauega and I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to our church leaders, Honorable leaders and members of the Fono, Honorable Judges, village leaders, non-profit organizations, non-government organizations, local government, federal partners, and members of the community that have contributed the time and effort to building and enriching our Territory.

We acknowledge all efforts and are extremely grateful for your continuous support.

LEMANU P. S. MAUGA
Governor

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FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

The financial outlook of our Territory showcases the collective work of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration to support the government and people of our Territory. The Administration continues to enforce the continued integrity of revenues to sustain government operations, coordinated efforts with a mid-year budgetary oversight and review, addressed audit recommendations, and implemented corrective actions as provided by the U.S. Treasury Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit, the US Department of Interior Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) Vehicle Audit, Government Wide Audit to include the US Department of Education (USDOE) High Risk Audit and the US Government Accountability Office engagements.

Department of Treasury

The Department of Treasury operates and maintains a wide range of crucial functions that are critical to the American Samoa Government's economic prosperity and financial infrastructure, such as revenue collections, maintaining the American Samoa Government's (ASG) financial accounting system, management of local collections/funds and federal grants for government operations, as well as the disbursements of payments to the public. The mission of the Department of the Treasury serves as the financial agent of the American Samoa Government by administering economic, fiscal and tax policies outlined under law.

Revenues: The Department of Treasury is at the forefront of meeting the government's core objectives of financial stability and revenue collection. The Treasury has significantly improved collections and resolved many accounts payable issues to provide the Administration with stability and a clear picture of our financial health.

Due to the increase in federal grants, actual indirect cost collected overall as of the end of FY22 is \$2.5M higher than projected.

Indirect Cost \$ 6,000,000.00 \$ 8,513,760.75

ASG's DOI Basic Operations grant, as noted below, has a positive variance of \$854K over its projected budget of \$12M.

DOI Basic Ops. - Gen. Fund \$12,271,000.00 \$13,125,500.00

Tax Refunds: For the calendar year of 2022 - Tax Office paid an estimated \$36 million of refunds to the taxpayers of American Samoa. This is an estimated \$9 million from local and \$27 million of CTC.

Earned Income Tax Credit: The Tax Office has distributed a total of \$14 million to qualified taxpayers in December 2022.

Office of Program Planning and Budget

Preliminary Fourth Quarter Performance Report - FY2022

The inflation (increase in prices) is showing signs of leveling off as a result of the increase in interest rates. However, the high interest rate carries risks of softening demand and the potential of a worldwide economic slowdown. As global risks of a recession remain; in contrast, there are strengths in pockets of local revenues in the tax area such as in the business sector and child tax credit that boosted our revenue pool to positive levels.

With federal aid to fund startup and ongoing projects in our economy, it is producing a positive impact to our revenue stream. These catalysts continue to sustain and provide stability to our economy. A vibrant economy that continues to deliver a steady pillar towards the solvency of our general fund.

LOCAL FUNDS	ANNUAL BUDGET	YTD 4TH QTR EXP.	% of SPENDING (Exp./Budget)	BALANCE
Local Government	80,241,500	78,928,740	98%	1,312,760
Judiciary	3,274,500	2,244,158	69%	1,030,342
Legislature	8,116,500	7,512,503	93%	603,997
Spec. Program	31,180,000	32,456,096	104%	(1,276,096)
TOTAL	122,812,500	121,141,497	99%	1,671,003

To date, the local fund preliminary FY2022 4th quarter YTD expenditures of about \$121.1 million has been documented versus the budget of \$122.8 million, generating a surplus of \$1.7 million. In summary, our general fund is strong and sound. Despite chaotic headwinds within our global market that continue to drive the illusion of a potential recession, our local economy continues to be resilient and thriving.

FY2023 Spending projections:

Although the global economy struggles with the risks of political instability and market uncertainty, our local economy is resilient as it continues to thrive. Our current YTD estimated expenditures for 1st quarter of FY2023 is about \$29 million.

Given the current trend, we are projected to attain a \$1 million surplus and achieve our commitment to a balanced budget by year end FY2023. We also have confidence that our vibrant economy will continue to drive our revenue base to sustainable levels.

Approved FY2023 Budget	\$117.8 M
Estimated Year End Expenses	\$116.0 M
Surplus	\$1.0 M

Budget Office Accomplishments and Achievements:

Despite the many challenges encountered, the budget office has managed to overcome obstacles and sustain a successful service-oriented operation. The Budget Office's priorities are essential to address funding areas towards critical needs of our people. Ultimately, the stated accomplishments are a part of an overall strategy as we continue to focus on sustaining the delivery of services effectiveness and efficiency in alignment with our priorities.

Closing the Inequality Gap on pay compensation amid high cost of living:

The high cost of living (inflation) has caused hardship for most low- income families in our territory as they struggle to meet their basic needs. Increase in inflation has been evident in the spike in the cost of food, fuel, and materials made worse by the shortage due to supply chain gridlock. There is also strain on families as they stretch limited resources to meet commitments for church activities, village council, and family fa'alavelaves.

Overall, the increase in compensation for the government workforce has somewhat eased the burden on families. The benefits gained from COVID federal aids also provided relief. In fact, the increase in discretionary income for consumption will help sustain our economy. And perhaps this is the best way to bridge the Inequality Gap between the haves and the have nots as well as addressing the inefficiencies and the inequities within our system.

Balanced Budget Commitment:

In an effort to balance the budget, the Budget Director put in place budget controls to ensure spending is in line with approved budget and consistent with the revenue collections. The budget office continues to operate with spending being tied to actual cash flow. Given our limited financial resources, ASG has to prioritize its needs and responsibly manage its resources with prudent financial discipline. A commitment to a balanced budget not only stipulated us to live within our means, but it would also continue to place ASG's in a sound financial position thereby achieving the Anti-Deficiency Act. Despite being underfunded in other critical areas of government, adequate revenues have enabled us to achieve a balanced budget consistently since 2015.

Budget Containment Measures to Control Spending:

As a precautionary measure, the Budget Office would apply the budget containment measures on budgeted accounts to contain spending especially when our government experienced a shortfall in revenue collection. The use of containment measures to control spending has instituted a sense of fiscal responsibility and discipline within each government department and agency to achieve effectiveness and efficiency in the process moving forward.

Approved Budget Appropriation Implementation:

When the FY2022 Budget Appropriation Bill was signed into law, the Budget Director issued a directive memorandum to all agencies and departments to submit their quarterly budget allocations and work plan. Submissions were due one week from the date of the outgoing memorandum.

Initially, the budget analyst would load each department's working budget allocation into the system by object class for the first quarter based on the approved budget in detail 1 format. The amounts were then modified accordingly to reflect quarterly allocations as submitted by the respective agencies and departments. When necessary, budget containment measures can be

applied to insert internal controls into the agency and department spending budgets each quarter to help avoid overruns.

All documented expenditures for the American Samoa Government must be routed in proper forms to be processed for review by the service agencies such as the Budget Office as well as other agencies if deemed necessary such as the Attorney General, Procurement Office, and Treasury. Action on personnel matters must be routed to the Budget Office, then to the Department of Human Resources for their personnel classification review and approval.

Revenue Projections as the basis for Proposed Annual Budget Ceiling:

The culmination of the trend of local revenue collections, projected spending, and the prospects of future business growth and economic conditions for the new fiscal year are factors that comprise the proposed budget ceiling. The focus on revenue collection has continued to alarm improvements in the tax collection areas; but it also served as a guiding mechanism for viable collection practices and efficient processes in order to meet revenue targets.

Overall, the revenue projection being implemented is a prudent exercise that derived the basis for the proposed Annual Budget Ceiling for the upcoming fiscal year. The Review and Assessment process improves accounts management and avoids overruns. The analysts are to ensure processes and procedures in place are being enforced especially to avoid potential issues in the event of an audit or other concerns cited by the grantor. Internal controls are applied in the assessment of any budgetary transfer with proper justification. Any transfer that lacks proper justification must be denied. Based on departments' submitted budget allocations, workplan, and grant awards; analyst can assert compliance on use of funding to eliminate abuse, mismanagement, and avoid budget overruns.

Quarterly Performance Reports and other financial reporting & analysis:

As mandated by law, Quarterly Performance Reports have been issued in a timely manner with the cooperation and assistance from all government agencies and departments. To meet statutory reporting responsibility, all government departments and agencies must submit their quarterly financial reports to our office prior to its final transmission to the Legislature 45 days from the end of each quarter. In addition, financial reports and data analysis are compiled and performed to meet special requests from the governor and the legislature in regards to any financial issue or concern. Periodic reports are prepared as requested accordingly by subject matters and funding sources. Budget analysts continue to work closely with departments and agencies to ensure the financial status of their budget accounts meet their funding priorities.

Management of Outstanding Encumbrances during year end closing:

Final closing letter had gone out directing departments and agencies to follow up on clearing outstanding encumbrances from the payment system. Meeting our balanced budget commitment required that our expenditures be in line with our approved budgeted revenue. Each department is responsible to follow up and provide assurances that payment had been remedied so that outstanding encumbrances could be disencumbered and be resolved. Otherwise, the remaining pending invoices will be rolled over to the new fiscal year to be accounted for.

Financial Planning, Reporting, and Analysis

The Budget Office has taken immense strides towards improving the financial reporting component of their service as current demands for various financial reports increase dramatically.

Grant Award Compliance, Unallowable Costs, and Reimbursement on grants

To minimize the increase in unallowable cost reimbursement on federal grants, budget analysts continue to closely scrutinize and meticulously monitor the overall requirements of each grant award. With broader understanding of management of restrictive grants, each budget analyst is required to fully review invoices, Purchase Requests (PRs), contracts, and other transactions in compliance with grant management reporting requirements and disallow any purchase that is deemed unallowable given the stated guidelines. Ultimately, the goal is to improve the timely drawdown of funds to cover reimbursable expenditures from grants while freeing up our local funds to absorb expenses for other vital government services. Overall, the Budget Office will continue to scrutinize every budget transfer and expenditure invoices on grants and local to ensure compliance with federal grants and as well as on local appropriations.

As we transition into FY2023, it is our shared vision of commitment to continue meeting our goals and objectives of being financially disciplined at all levels, and become responsible stewards of the limited financial resources we have. The Budget Office will continue to enforce compliance centering on four main areas: internal controls, productivity improvement, resources allocation, and proper justification in line with mandated policies and priorities.

Fiscal Responsibility, Compliance & Accountability

Compliance & OIG Audit

With the increase in available federal funding to the American Samoa Government, the Lemanu-Talauega Administration continues to concentrate its efforts in assuring that these funds are spent in accordance with federal and local procurement policies and procedures.

2021 Year End Closing/Government-wide Audit: The 2021 ASG Single Audit and the Financial audit were performed during the 2022 second quarter. Due to border closures, the audit was virtual, similar to the previous year. In February, COVID-19 entered the Territory; however, Treasury Finance was able to work with the auditors, sometimes remotely from home, to complete the audit on time - April 30, 2022.

Office of the Inspector General Audit: Throughout the year, submissions to the Office of the Inspector General as part of the audit of the \$35 million Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) received under the previous administration was completed. The administration awaits as the Office of the Inspector General has not issued a final report of their audit.

Ensuring budgetary compliance is a priority of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration. Adjusting cost saving measures will be put in place as a result of any shortfalls or improper expenditures. Weekly compliance review meetings are conducted throughout the year and will continue to ensure the government has complied and instituted corrective measures as these types of non-budgetary concerns and findings arise. The Administration will continue to be vigilant in this endeavor to resolve our findings and incorporate recommendations for improvements.

Debt Service (DS) Compliance managed by the American Samoa Economic Development Authority (ASEDA) continues to be compliant with timely payments to investors, monitoring reports required by our continuing disclosure with the Municipality Securities Rulemaking Authority (MSRB), US Government Accountability Office (GAO) and rating agency. Debt service earmarks authorized by the Fono coupled with investment interest earned provide the inflow of revenues to sufficiently address our compliance payments. The general obligation bonds provided assistance to over 20 projects to help improve the quality of life; develop sound financial decisions and governance; support economic development; dedicate resources to secure capital improvements that would strengthen infrastructure and provide services in the territory.

Government Accountability Office (GAO) review and engagements are facilitated through requests of congressional committees or subcommittees or are statutorily required by public laws or committee reports. The review provides Congress, the leaders of US executive agencies and the public with timely, fact-based, non-partisan information. The territory is undergoing a total of three (3) engagements. Engagement 106045 Territorial Debt Engagement is a result of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA) which contains provision for GAO to review public debt to each U.S. territory every 2 years, this is our 4th engagement. Engagement 106050 COVID-19 Relief funding to U.S. territories as mandated in the Corona Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; review what the territory received and how the funds were utilized. Engagement 106236 Indo-Pacific Climate Change Risks pursuant to a congressional committee chair on how the U.S. government departments and agencies have provided assistance to support climate risks, the effectiveness and actions. A GAO team will be visiting the territory in the new year to conduct on-site visits and meetings to the assigned departments to ensure compliance and information are provided.

US Department of Education Risk Compliance

The US Department of Education High Risk designation and semiannual reporting is an ongoing audit. The High-Risk Task Force (HRTF) submitted its current report on April 30, 2022 to the US Department of Education Risk Compliance to address long-standing high-risk items. The Territory awaits comments to prepare for the next reporting period due date. As most high-risk items correlate to audit findings, once addressed in Treasury's financials, the high-risk items will be resolved.

In 2022, ASG achieved closure of 7 findings. One additional finding was overlooked by the USDOE, and will be closed in the next annual letter outlining the specific conditions American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) must meet. Another finding remains open only for monitoring due to the influx of COVID funds into the Territory and pending the FY21 audit. Neither of these two items is calling for action on ASG's part at this time. This leaves 7 findings for ASG to continue to work on. The implementation of DOE's new Asset Management System could possibly lead to the closure of another finding. ASG is working on legislation to address the concerns in three more findings. The final audit report for 2021 is not modified for the second year in a row, with the sole exception of a component unit.

Territorial Audit Office

The focus on the Territorial Audit Office's audits and reviews in 2022 was on the prevention and detection of fraud, waste, abuse and on the improvement of effectiveness, efficiency and economy of government operations.

Association of Pacific Island Public Auditors (APIPA) 2022 Annual Conference

The Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors (APIPA) held its 33rd annual conference, virtually from August 29 to September 2, 2022. The APIPA virtual conference was hosted by the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). More than 500 government financial accountability officials attended from all the Insular Areas and beyond. The APIPA 2022 conference provided training for auditing and financial accountability officials with participants having the opportunity to receive up to 20 hours of Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits, required by government auditing standards for auditors to maintain their professional competency. Thirteen (13) two-hour and four-hour courses were delivered during the conference in Plenary, Audit, and Finance tracks. More than 507 participants joined the conference, expanding their skills in government auditing and financial standards, audit report writing, grants management, leadership, risk, and internal controls. In total, over 2,785 course certificates were awarded for 7,028 credit hours.

The Ethics Officers Training

The Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives (PITI-VITI) supported by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and administered by Graduate School USA conducted a government-wide training from March 21-28 for ASG Departments and Agencies. Sixty-one ASG ethics officers attended the training. The Ethical Decision-Making for Governmental Employees course was tailored to the unique needs of American Samoa, incorporating both general ethics concepts and the specific legal codes and relevant ethics legislation in the Territory. The training offered two days of instruction, providing each ethics officer with eight Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits. The sixty-one ethics officers participating in the two-day training session helped push forward government efforts to improve its ethics-based approaches to decision-making in American Samoa's government.

ASG Department Audits Completed and Pending in 2022

- Report No. 21-09 Department of Homeland – Vital Statistics, Cash Count
- Report No. 21-10 Department of Agriculture, Market, Airport & Head Office, Cash Count
- Report No. 22-01 Department of Treasury – Customs Division, Cash Count
- Report No. 22-02 Department of Treasury – Tax Office, Performance Audit
- Report No. 22-03 Department of Public Works – Dial a Ride Program, Cash Count (follow-up)
- Report No. 22-04 Sports Complex Management Office, Cash Count (follow-up)
- Report No. 22-05 Department of Public Works – Finance Division, Cash Count(follow-up)
- Report No. 22-06 Department of Public Safety – OMV & Records Div. Cash Count (follow-up)
- Report No. 22-07 Department of Health – Physical & Vets Clinic & Vessel Seaport, Cash Count
- Report No. 22-08 Department of Health – Main Office, Performance Audit (pending)
- Report No.22-09 Department of Legal Affairs – Territorial Registrar's Office, Cash Count
- Report No. 22-10 Department of Port Administration – Tafuna & Fagatogo Main, Cash Count (follow-up)
- Report No. 22-11 Department of Health – Environmental Health Services, Special investigation (pending)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Oversight Office

FY 2022 was a challenging and exciting time for the newly formed ARPA Oversight Office (ARPA Office). The ARPA Office was created by Executive Order (EO # 003-2021) signed by Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga on June 23, 2021. The mandate for the ARPA Office was to provide oversight for the use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). American Samoa was awarded nearly \$500,000,000.00 in SLFRF funds (Territorial, Counties and Non-entitlement NEU) in May 2021.

The ARPA Office coordinated the development of the American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan as a roadmap for projects and programs designed to address the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Territory. The impacted area covered healthcare, economy, governmental services, non-profit and non-governmental programs, and priorities for the territory. Projects and programs are administered by Departments, Authorities and Agencies with content expertise to ensure the most effective and efficient use of ARPA (SLFRF funds). The American Samoa ARPA Recovery Plan was developed with input and feedback from territorial stakeholders and with strict adherence to grant guidelines. The SLFRF guidance is summarized in the Final Rules document issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

FY 2022 Key ARPA Oversight Office Allocation/Performance Accomplishments:

Project Name: Repatriation (EC 1.7 - Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- Funding Amount: \$16,000,000.00
 - Total passengers that underwent Quarantine & Isolation following arrival at Pago Airport: Airport Hanger: 194 and Alternative Care Facility: 212
 - 10,961 total passengers (Hawaii, Apia, Vessels, Charters) and DOH personnel that were quarantined and provided accommodations, meals, etc. during repatriation FY 2022
 - Emergency Hire of 60 Personnel to support Quarantine & Security Home Monitoring
 - Preserved life and property of the People of America Samoa from the negative and deadly effects of COVID-19
 - Safely processed all incoming passengers from Hawaii and Samoa to ensure the health and welfare of the general public.
 - Supported the monitoring of all positive tested passengers during Home Isolation orders from the Department of Health
 - Supported the Quarantine & Security of Home Isolation and Traveling Public through Hotels & Accommodation, Meals, Transportation between Airport and Alternative Care Facility, etc.

Project Name: Safe Travel (EC 1.3-COVID-19 Contact Tracing Status)

- Funding Amount: \$6,840,000.00
 - Quarantine, Covid Policy Edits, and Contact Tracing module changes made to reflect current need
 - Inter-departmental Data Communications Platform for Departments of Health, Medicaid, Attorney General, and Executive Branch
 - 17,713 registered travelers in the Talofa Pass system
 - 12,894 fully approved inbound travelers from U.S. and Apia, Samoa
 - 6510 inbound travelers from Apia, Samoa
 - 166 human remains declared by travelers
 - 4 service animals declared by travelers
 - 22 firearms declared by travelers

Project Name: Vaccination (EC 1.1-COVID-19 Vaccination)

- Funding Amount: \$2,665,254.00
 - Fully vaccinated population is over 84% with at least one dose just under 90%
 - Protected the general public and prepared them for the arrival of COVID-19

Project Name: Non-Profit Assistance Program (EC 2.34 - Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

- Funding Amount: \$4,800,000.00
 - Out of 24 applications reviewed and screened, 22 non-profits were approved and issued award letters

Project Name: Non-Profit Cash Assistance Program (EC 2.9 - Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers)

- Funding Amount: \$200,000.00
 - Of the 55 total applicants, 41 have been approved while 14 are pending further review, verification, and submission of the needed documents

Project Name: Business Recovery Capital Program (EC 2.29 - Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship)

- Funding Amount: \$10,000,000.00
 - ARPA BRCP GRANTS – 4,000,000.00
 - Up to \$25,000.00 for each approved applicant
 - 450 plus applications received
 - 188 applicants issued grant award
 - ARPA BRCP RLOC – 5,000,000.00
 - \$50,000 to \$500,000.00 for approved applicant
 - Over \$4 million in LOC loans disbursed
 - 29 being serviced

Project Name: Maota Affordable Home Loan Program (EC 2.15 - Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing)

- Funding Amount: 8,000,000.00
 - 12 approved beneficiaries for new home construction
 - 7 approved for home renovations
 - Home loan program is on-going with lotteries being done until funds are expended and continues up until 2024
 - \$1.3 million distributed for first round of new home loan program
 - Conducted the lottery and picked the winners to apply for home renovations and new homes for transparency

Project Name: ASPA Water System Improvement Projects (EC 5.11 Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution)

- Funding Amount: 20,000,000.00
 - ASPA-1 ACP Replacement (Tafuna) – 4,000,000.00
 - Design in Progress - Completed bid documents for RFP (construction) and RFQ (Material supply)
 - Completed land use permits
 - ASPA-2 ACP Replacement (Pago) - \$2,000,000.00
 - Design is pending completion
 - Land Use Permits are in process
 - Design and Engineering is in progress
 - ASPA-3 ACP Replacement (Aua) - \$3,500,000.00
 - Design in progress
 - Permitting in process
 - ASPA-4 Cast Iron Pipe Replacement (Pago Hillside) - \$2,500,000.00
 - Project Design Phase Complete
 - QC on A&E Firm/Contractor work performance to be satisfactory
 - ASPA-5 ACP Replacement Airport Loop Tafuna - \$1,500,000.00
 - Permitting and design is in progress
 - ASPA-6 Well Exploration Drilling and Connection - \$2,000,000.00
 - Obtain Easements
 - Complete ASHPO concurrence
 - Submit to ASEPA PTC's and schedule site visits
 - Complete Land Use Permits
 - ASPA-7 HDPE Pipe Replacement Phase II (Tualauta) - \$2,000,000.00
 - Design is approximately 80% complete and is under review by Senior Engineer Permitting under process.
 - ASPA-8 Rehabilitation of Existing Welded Steel Tanks - \$1,500,000.00
 - Contract Awarded to JF Tanks for three (3) Tanks
 - Completed Tank 2 of 3 Tanks

- ASPA-9 Water Salinity Reduction Project (East side Tutuila, Aunuu) - \$1,000,000.00
 - Site visit and easement application for Desalination plant scheduled for October
 - RFP for project materials has been submitted to Procurement, Procurement is preparing BID package for January 2023
 - Completed Permitting Process

Project Name: LBJTMC New Medical Facility (EC 2.21 Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities)

- Funding Amount: \$200,000,000.00
 - Planning and pre-construction evaluations with the Source Evaluation Board (SEB) for the RFP for New Hospital (Reference No. 001-2022)
 - Selected Architect Hawaii Limited (AHL)
 - Jacob and WSP Firm the Architect Hawaii Limited (AHL) Jacobs WSP Firm received their selection letter for RFP New 40 Bed Hospital
 - LBJTMC and AHL are working on the AIA Standard Agreement Between Owner and Architect

Project Name: LBJTMC Faga’alu Expansion (EC 2.21 Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities)

- Funding Amount: \$50,000,000.00
 - IFB has been advertised for the ICU/MIS Expansion project Ref No: 1019-14. IFB due date has been extended from 23 June 2022 and will remain open until further notice as stated in Addendum #5 issued on November 7, 2022.
 - Weekly and Bi-weekly meetings with Faga’alu project design team

Project Name: LBJTMC Personnel (EC 2.21 Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities)

- Funding Amount: \$50,000,000.00
 - LBJ actively working on plans for hiring medical professionals, needed workers,
 - Support team and project managers

Project Name: DPA Seaport (EC 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

- Funding Amount: \$40,000,000.00
 - DPA Seaport - \$20,000,000.00
 - Demolished existing DPA Building and prepared area for immediate container storage
 - Design Contract for Container Yard Design – Request for Proposal Evaluation process completed

- Design Contract for New ASG Facilities Building - Request for Proposal Evaluation process completed
 - Procurement to award Intent to Award to successful Firm
 - Design RFP Contract awarded to Beca Pacific Inc.
- DPA Airport - \$15,000,000.00
 - Design RFP Contract awarded to Woolpert Inc.
- DPA Inter-Island - \$5,000,000.00
 - Purchased two new Landing Craft Units (LCUs) and two Tugboats

Project Name: Broadband iNEI (EC 5.21-Broadband: Other projects)

- Funding Amount: \$10,000,000.00
 - ASTCA – 5G network upgrade (\$3,350,000)
 - BlueSky – 5G network upgrade (\$3,350,000)
 - ASTCA – Manu’a Cable Repair (\$2,800,000)

Project Name: Public Buildings CDC Compliance Project (EC 1.4 - Prevention in Congregate Settings Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

- Funding Amount: \$9,474,600.00
 - DPS – \$450,000.00
 - Department of Legal Affairs - \$90,000.00
 - Fono/Legislature - \$2,731,600.00
 - Treasury - \$1,485,000.00
 - Public Works - \$700,000.00
 - Human Resources - \$475,000.00
 - Office of Planning and Budget - \$285,000.00
 - Administrative Law Judge Office - \$185,000.00
 - Homeland Security - \$1,253,000.00
 - Administrative Services – \$1,820,000.00

*Projects are at different phases of implementation but ultimately, each awarded department or agency will improve their operation capacity should we experience a similar pandemic in the future.

Project Name: DPS Keep American Samoa Covid Free (EC 3.1 - Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers)

- Funding Amount: \$1,907,200.00
 - 54 police officers avoided layoff, including overtime pay for all public safety personnel who were required to provide 24-hour surveillance to combat the community spread of Covid-19

- Renovated sub-stations to establish quarantine facilities for law enforcement officers and personnel to prevent further spread of Covid-19 to their families and the community

Project Name: Office of Samoan Affairs - Protecting Communities from Covid-19 (EC 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine))

- Funding Amount: \$950,000.00
 - 3 new vehicles purchased
 - Covered personnel costs for IT support and overtime pay
 - Purchased needed materials to support CDC guidelines and standards

Project Name: ARPA CAP DOC (EC 2.29 - Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship)

- Funding Amount: \$2,000,000.00
 - Of the 348 total applications, 237 were awarded grant funding
 - Over \$1 million has been awarded
 - Remaining applications are being processed daily

Project Name: ARPA CAP For Impacted Business Workers (EC 2.9 - Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers)

- Funding Amount: \$2,500,000.00
 - Of the 3,547 total applicants, 2,451 received payments while 1,096 are pending approval because of further review, needing more supporting documents, etc.
 - Over \$1.5 million has been disbursed to impacted private sector workers as direct assistance to provide relief against the impact of lost wages and employment

Financial Summary of ARPA (SLFRF) Expenditures

The Expenditure Summary below identifies funds allocated and expended from August 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

ARPA SLFRF SUMMARY

SLFRF TYPE	No. OF PROJECTS	A.		B.		A-B
		SLFRF BEGIN.	ALLOCATED TO BUDGET	SLFRF BAL.	EXPENSES	ALLOCATED BAL.
Territories	36	479,135,254.00	435,135,254.00	44,000,000.00	(25,723,295.33)	409,411,958.67
Counties	4	5,391,957.50	5,357,200.00	34,757.50	(3,026,141.31)	2,331,058.69
NEU's	1	5,071,819.00	2,500,000.00	2,571,819.00	(1,563,442.54)	936,557.46
TOTAL	41	489,599,030.50	442,992,454.00	46,606,576.50	(30,312,879.18)	412,679,574.82

*Counties field "SLFRF Begin" is not inclusive of second tranche payment \$5,391,957.50

*NEU's field "SLFRF Begin" received total payment at 6/20/22

ARPA SLFRF PROJECT BREAKDOWN

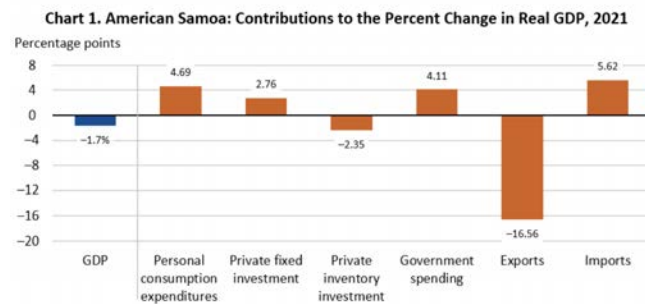
PROJECTS AWARDED	DATE	ACCOUNT NUMBER	SLFRF TYPE	BUDGET	EXPENSES
ARPA Oversight Office	8/1/2021	A00100	Territories	3,754,000.00	(472,813.01)
Repatriation	9/1/2021	A00110	Territories	16,000,000.00	
Repatriation - extension	4/5/2022	A00110	Counties	500,000.00	(14,931,347.90)
Safe Travel	8/30/2021	A00111	Territories	6,840,000.00	(5,000,000.00)
Safe Travel Transition	7/11/2022	A00111A	Territories	876,000.00	-
OSA Vaccination	8/1/2021	A00112	Territories	2,668,254.00	(2,529,336.35)
DOC Business Capital Recovery Plan	12/20/2021	A00113	Territories	10,000,000.00	(597,066.92)
DOC Broadband iNEI	1/4/2022	A00114	Territories	10,000,000.00	(5,466.73)
DPS	1/11/2022	A00115	Counties	1,907,200.00	(1,754,290.97)
Public Buildings (CDC)	2/16/2022	A00116	Territories	8,800,000.00	-
116A TR	6/28/2022	A00116A	Territories	1,485,000.00	-
116B DPW	6/28/2022	A00116B	Territories	700,000.00	-
116C DPS	7/11/2022	A00116C	Territories	450,000.00	-
116D DHR		A00116D	Territories	475,000.00	-
116E DLA		A00116E	Territories	90,000.00	-
116F FONO		A00116F	Territories	-	-
CAP-Businesses	4/5/2022	A00117	Counties	2,000,000.00	(1,035,098.93)
CAP-Workers	4/5/2022	A00118	NEU's	2,500,000.00	(1,563,442.54)
OSA Project	5/31/2022	A00119	Counties	950,000.00	(236,751.41)
Home Loan Program	6/1/2022	A00120	Territories	8,000,000.00	(9,215.93)
Non-Profit Assistance Program	6/28/2022	A00121	Territories	4,500,000.00	-
Non-Profit Cash Assistance Program	6/28/2022	A00122	Territories	500,000.00	(26,064.12)
ASPA1	2/16/2022	A00201	Territories	4,000,000.00	(1,930.73)
ASPA2	2/16/2022	A00202	Territories	2,000,000.00	(4,047.66)
ASPA3	2/16/2022	A00203	Territories	3,500,000.00	-
ASPA4	2/16/2022	A00204	Territories	2,500,000.00	(2,475.60)
ASPA5	2/16/2022	A00205	Territories	1,500,000.00	-
ASPA6	2/16/2022	A00206	Territories	2,000,000.00	(1,280.49)
ASPA7	2/16/2022	A00207	Territories	2,000,000.00	(1,857.31)
ASPA8	2/16/2022	A00208	Territories	1,500,000.00	(431.82)
ASPA9	2/16/2022	A00209	Territories	1,000,000.00	(44.56)
LBJTMCPersonnel	6/29/2022	A00301	Territories	50,000,000.00	-
LBJTMCPNew Medical Facility	6/29/2022	A00302	Territories	200,000,000.00	-
LBJTMCPExpansion	6/29/2022	A00303	Territories	50,000,000.00	-
DPASeaport	1/1/2022	A21001	Territories	3,000,000.00	(51,168.00)
DPASeaportA	1/1/2022	A21001A	Territories	15,700,000.00	-
DPASeaportB	1/1/2022	A21001B	Territories	1,000,000.00	-
DPASeaportC	1/1/2022	A21001C	Territories	200,000.00	-
DPASeaportD	1/1/2022	A21001D	Territories	100,000.00	-
DPAAirport	1/1/2022	A21002	Territories	15,000,000.00	(384.00)
DPAInter-Island Transport	1/1/2022	A21003	Territories	5,000,000.00	(2,088,364.20)
				442,992,454.00	(30,312,879.18)
UPCOMING PROJECTS					
DOH Mental Health Services			Territories	24,000,000.00	
DOH Community Health Centers			Territories	20,000,000.00	
				44,000,000.00	

STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Economic Indicators

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Despite the pandemic's impact on global inflation and workforce shortages, the American Samoa Government (ASG) has benefited from an unprecedented influx of Federal relief funds even while



Note. The chart shows the percent change of total real GDP and the contributions (in percentage points) of each major component to that change. For example, exports accounted for -16.56 percentage points of the 1.7 percent decrease in real GDP in 2021. Imports are a subtraction item; thus, a decrease in imports results in a positive contribution to GDP.

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

free of community spread in the first two years of the pandemic. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), a 1.7% decrease in GDP for American Samoa (2021) largely due to decreases in tuna exports was partly offset by increases in personal consumption expenditures, government spending, and private fixed investment. Further, the BEA reported that “personal consumption expenditures increased 6.2 percent, primarily reflecting growth in spending on goods, such as food and beverages, clothing, and furniture.

Consumer spending was supported by government assistance payments distributed to households through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).”

Increases to social welfare program benefits and additional tax credits have had a massive impact on families across American Samoa. According to the Congressional Research Services, the impact of the Expanded Child Tax Credit from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) reduced childhood poverty across the nation by nearly half. The Lemanu-Talauaga Administration has continuously urged relevant departments of the timely disbursement of these benefits to ensure that families have more money in their pockets given the rising costs of food, gas, and electricity. Further, Governor Lemanu has adamantly stressed to ASG Agencies and Departments the need to address long-standing issues of outstanding payments to local vendors.

Executive Actions

Improving the quality of life for the public workforce and families is among the foremost priorities of the Lemanu-Talauaga Administration. The Compliance Review Committee (CRC) comprising various Executive departments was formed to lead this effort and provide recommendations to the Governor after a thorough assessment of personnel structures and years' worth of personnel actions and contracts.

Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga took swift action to reorganize and reassess payroll functions to “right the ship” in accordance with the law while mindful of the rapidly rising costs of living for families in American Samoa. On June 30, 2021, Governor Lemanu issued *General Memorandum 121-21* announcing the adoption of new pay scales for white collar employees, blue collar employees, and educators resulting in pay increases to most of the ASG workforce — leaving no employee making below the new ASG minimum wage of \$7.25 (approx. \$15,000 annually).

The following is a summary of key Executive actions and legislation signed into law under the Lemanu-Talauega Administration to raise the standard of living for the Territory's workforce and families:

- On April 1, 2021, Governor Lemanu issued *General Memorandum 77-21* outlining the terms of hazardous duty pay in effect from April 5, 2021 - December 31, 2021 ensuring that our first responders and frontline workers receive additional compensation for their service throughout the COVID-19.
- On September 15, 2021, Acting Governor Talauega signed Senate Bill (S.B. 37-29) into *Public Law 37-4* fulfilling a legislative requirement to amend the tax code in order to enact the Child Tax Credit provision of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) making available a total of \$27.8 M disbursed to eligible taxpayers.
- On September 23, 2021, Acting Governor Talauega signed House Bill (H.B. 37-21) into *Public Law 37-6* appropriating unobligated and unexpended revenues from FY 2020 and FY 2019 to supplement the FY 2022 budget to cover increased pay and personnel costs at the ASCC, LBJ Tropical Medical Center, the Department of Health, the Office of Administrative Law Judge, and ASG Executive Branch Attorneys.
- On December 20, 2021, Lieutenant Governor Talauega Ale announced to the COVID-19 Task Force the Governor's Hero Pay initiative for front line workers involved in the Territory's COVID-19 response. In addition to hazard pay, this benefit resulted in \$260,500 paid to eligible employees.
- On August 30, 2022, Governor Lemanu issued *General Memorandum 130-22* reminding all ASG Executive Departments and Offices of their moral and legal responsibility to abide by Federal labor laws regarding the timely compensation of Overtime worked to their staff and employees.
- On September 23, 2022, Governor Lemanu signed House Bill No. 37-34 into *Public Law 37-11* fulfilling a legislative requirement to amend the tax code in order to enact the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) provision of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that resulted in \$14 Million in EITC benefits disbursed to eligible taxpayers.

Tax Credits, COVID Relief and Low-Income Benefits

The following is a breakdown of the various tax credits, social welfare programs, and small business loans and grants that have been disbursed to the community in 2022:

Tax Credits & Benefits to Employees:

Tax Refunds: For the calendar year of 2022 - Tax Office paid an estimated \$36 million of refunds to the taxpayers of American Samoa. This is an estimated \$9 million from local and \$27 million of Child Tax Credit.

Earned Income Tax Credit: In December 2022, the Tax Office distributed a total of \$14 million to qualified taxpayers for this credit.

Benefits for Women, Children, and Families:

In 2022, the Department of Human and Social Services infused into the local economy approximately \$30 million in monthly client benefit/payments which stimulated economic growth and generated additional monies in economic activities. This does not include administrative and operational costs for all DHSS programs and services.

- ASNAP Division – Issued a total of \$17,916,942 in food stamp benefits.
 - ASNAP Benefits - Issued \$8,869,935 in ASNAP benefits for a monthly average of 4,356 recipients.
 - ASNAP Incentive to Stimulate Local Food Production - 20% of benefits are in “local” food coupons only for the purchase of locally fished, grown, and produced food items. This helps our local farmers, fishermen, bakeries and other food producers. It also incentivizes new local food production. The remaining 80% of ASNAP benefits are in “regular” food coupons for the purchase of imported and local food items.
 - P-EBT Benefits for School Closure during School Year 2021-2022 - Issued \$7,393,922 in P-EBT benefits to 12,894 children from 5,914 households.
 - Enhanced nutrition assistance for ASNAP recipients: Issued \$1,653,085 in for a monthly average of 4,219 recipients.
 - P-EBT Benefits for the Summer of 2022 – Due to the delay in the award of administrative costs to pay for program implementation for the Summer P-EBT Program coupled with the delay in the supply of special coupon paper due to the global shortage of raw materials, the issuance of \$6,400,000 in Summer P-EBT benefits (for 14,000 children from over 6,000 households) that was planned for December 2022 will commence on January 18, 2023.
- ASWIC Division – DHSS redeemed a total of \$3,706,901 in WIC benefits. An average of 3,798 recipients (or 676 women, 611 infants, and 2,510 children) participated in the ASWIC each month from January 2022 to December 2022. Unfortunately, an average of 47.66% of monthly WIC benefits were expunged as they were not redeemed by WIC clients.
 - Regular WIC Benefits – ASWIC recipients only redeemed \$2,982,738 in regular WIC benefits that were issued to them while 48.66% of regular benefits were expunged as they were not redeemed by WIC clients.
 - Cash Value Voucher Benefits (CVV/B) – ASWIC recipients redeemed \$724,163 out of \$1,074,475 that was issued as they were not redeemed by WIC clients.
- Child Care Division – DHSS issued a total of \$7,584,908 in benefit/ subsidy payments through the American Samoa Child Care Program.
 - Payments to Child Care Centers - \$6,624,405
 - Payments to Family Child Care Providers -\$260,336
 - Payments to In-Home Child Care Providers - \$587,500
 - Teacher Stipend Payments - \$112,667
- Children and Family Services Division – DHSS paid \$593,202 by the end of the year in pandemic emergency cash assistance, rental assistance, and foster care subsidies.

- AS-Pandemic Emergency Assistance Fund – Issued \$484,200 in one-time payments of \$200 per child for 961 extremely low-income households with 2,421 children.
- Rental Assistance Payments – Issued \$109,002 to 29 households with 117 family members

COVID-19 Assistance for Impacted Students

In March 2022, approximately \$2.8 million in food coupon assistance was disbursed to approximately 14,000 eligible public and private school students. This one-time assistance of \$200 per student (both public and private) through the ASDOE ARPA funds was to provide for students during the state of emergency declaration when schools were closed.

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Programs for Local Small Business:

- The Cash Assistance Program for Impacted Businesses disbursed \$1,218,882.37 to 199 business applicants.
- The Business Recovery Capital Program for Impacted Businesses (Grant & Line of Credit) approved 192 business applicants for grant assistance resulting in \$3,991,304.87 in grant awards to local businesses.
 - To date, a total of \$510,342.16 has been paid out based on submissions from each approved subgrantee.
 - 29 applicants were approved for the line of credit which translates to \$4,650,000.
- The Emergency Rental Assistance Program has disbursed \$2,729,066 benefiting a total of 494 households or families (139 landlords).
 - The Cares Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund has funded a total of \$1.83 Million to assist new and existing businesses in the Territory.
 - The CARES Community Services Block Grant committed \$50,000 in support of the GiveLight Initiative that aided 602 families with credit for electricity.

COVID-19 Economic Recovery Programs for Impacted Employees:

- The ARPA Cash Assistance Program Unemployment for Impacted Employees disbursed \$1,898,625 in benefits to 3,280 private sector employees that were impacted during Code Red and subsequent restrictions in business hours. An additional 259 applicants have pending claims.
- The NonProfit ARPA Cash Assistance Program Unemployment for Impacted Employees disbursed \$39,382 in benefits to 55 claimants. An additional 6 applicants have pending claims.

Department of Commerce

Calendar Year 2022 Registered Business License

Approximately 3,656 business licenses were registered at the Revenue Branch of the American Samoa Department of Treasury. A total of 4,616 business licenses were recorded in the previous calendar year. Compared to CY 2021, there is a -20.80% decrease in returning business owners within fiscal year 2021 since the business license renewal period opened in October 2021.

However, ASG generated an estimated total revenue of \$499,437.50 which indicates an increase of \$19,318.50 or 4.02% increase of revenue collection in comparison to CY 2021's total revenue of \$480,119.00. There has been a significant increase in our Territorial business growth at the end of CY 2022 due to federal program grants including the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), the Business Recovery Capital Program Grant and Revolving Line of Credit Program, and other federal grant awards.

Collected Revenue

The table below shows the breakdown of revenue collected in business license renewals as well as new and additional business activities in CY2022 thus far:

Calendar Year 2021 Business Registration from Oct 1 - Sept 30, 2022	Revenue Collected
New Businesses (Jan 1 - Sept 30, 2022) 404	\$41,950.00
Additional Business Activities (Jan 1 –Sept. 30,2021) 242	\$22,875.00
Business Renewals (Oct 1, 2021 - Sept 30, 2022) 2,843	\$434,612.50
TOTAL REVENUE	\$499,437.50

CY2022 Top 10 Business Activities (as of September 30, 2022)

No.	Business Type	Total
1	Retail	469
2	Food Establishment	469
3	Alcoholic/Beer License	265
4	Commercial/House Rental	216
5	Commercial Transportation	213
6	Import/Export	176
7	Landscaping/Janitorial	156
8	Construction/Engineering	85
9	Sewing Shop	85
10	Whole Sale	72

The total for the Top 10 Business Activities is 2261 which makes up 64% of all business activities.

CY2022 Top 10 Businesses by Employment (as of September 30, 2022)

Name of Applicant	Business Name	Business Activity	FT Emp.
Starkist Samoa, Co		Fishing Base	2611
Paramount Builders, Lt.		Construction	219
AST Telecom, LLC	Bluesky Comm.	Tele. Retail	110
Nana's Incorporation		Construction	105
American Industries, Inc	Neil's Ace Home Center	Retail	101
American Samoa 2000, Inc	McDonalds AS	Fast Food Rest.	90
Fletcher Construction Com Ltd		General Construction	63
Ottoville Investment One	Tradewinds Hotel	Hotel	59
Talofa Systems AS, Inc.		Manufacturing	54
GHC Reid & Comp. Ltd		Recycling	50
Grand Total			3,623

One-Day Business Licensing Process

This process has proven to be a streamlined and business-friendly method. An increasing number of American Samoan entrepreneurs are visiting the office to obtain business licenses for a variety of business activities such as child daycare services, e-commerce, food catering delivery services, consulting services, fast food, freelance photography, power wash services, business consulting, farming, barber shops, landscaping services, rental units and commercial building leasing, import & export etc.

Small Business Technical Assistance Program

The DOC provides technical assistance to local business persons when they request necessary documents to meet the requirements of small business-related programs offered through the Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS), the Territorial Bank of American Samoa (TBAS), the Small Business Administration (SBA), ANZ Bank, and the Vocational Rehab Financial Assistance Program, etc.

The DOC BTID assisted four applicants with their EIN applications on the IRS website this year.

Certificate of Good Standing (CGS)

The DOC BTID prepared and issued only twenty-four Certificates of Good Standing (CGS) within this calendar year. The DOC is the ASG's authorized and recognized agency to prepare and issue CGS' as required by off-island banks and other entities for verification and the setting up of business bank accounts and other purposes.

Business License Enforcement: Database Management

Ongoing management and maintenance of the DOC's business license database is used to generate monthly, quarterly, and annual performance reports. During this quarter, the DOC compiled business listings for the Department of Human Social Services Child Care Center, the DOC Community Services Block Grant Program, the DOC Urban Planning and Development Division, the DOC Statistics and Analysis Division, the DOC ERAP, the American Samoa Visitors Bureau, the Department of Health Environmental Health Services Division, the Office of Financial Institutions, the American Samoa Telecommunication Authority, Bluesky Communications, and many other agencies. This database is also useful in estimating the number of business establishments for upcoming business quarterly surveys and other related data needs for the business community.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Applications

The Planning division launched the initial phase of the Super Alia Project. The EDA award to fund our Local Fishing Fleet Development Initiative was awarded in November 2020 in the amount of \$4,377,666 with Requests for Proposals to be published in April 2021. Applications in developments for the EDA EAA program include the Innovation & Technology Campus, the Tafuna Industrial Park Road improvements, and the Fagaloa Development Projects.

Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF)

The Planning division continues to promote the DBAS RLF loan program in coordination with DBAS loan staff. We launched a new EDRLF-CARES Act in February with funding secured from EDA; RLF program launched February 15, 2021 and will provide the American Samoa business community with access to capital for new businesses or business expansion. Capitalization of RLF

is at \$1,800,000. Applications were accepted and reviewed for funding. To date, we have approved EDRLF funding for local small businesses.

State Small Business Credit

This program is currently undergoing federal review before it can be made available again to the public. The advancement of economic development is inherent in the strengthening and expansion of the local business sector, increasing export earnings by attracting new industries and foreign capital investment in manufacturing and processing, creating economic surplus by expanding the economic contributions of tourism, fisheries, agriculture, and telecommunications, as well as increasing the multiplier effect of every federal dollar entering the territory.

Four basic programs are carried out to achieve these goals: small business technical assistance program, small business information assistance service program, small business financial assistance program, and the small business awareness and referral service program. The forthcoming SSBCI 2.0 program allocation for American Samoa is \$56 million.

National Entrepreneurship Month Proclamation

In honor of National Entrepreneurship month across the nation, Governor Lemanu Proclaimed November 2022 as National Entrepreneurship Month to honor local entrepreneurs across the territory. This was celebrated through a Biz’Fest held at the OMV. The success of that event has led the DOC to prepare for more events like these to empower local entrepreneurship in American Samoa. This is the first time American Samoa has proclaimed a national entrepreneurship month on the island.

Biz’Fest 2022

This year’s theme is “Empowering Local Entrepreneurship” with an emphasis on local shopping. A total of 49 registered vendors were in attendance, and this was a successful event with positive feedback from the public to create more spaces like these to support new business startups across the territory. This event focused on encouraging local entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their locally made products with an opportunity for the department to utilize its platforms to market small businesses at the event.

Business Economic Recovery Programs

Business Recovery Capital Program (BRCP) - Grant

The BRCP Grant is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and is administered by the Department of Commerce in an effort to rebuild the local economy since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was launched in March 2022 in response to assisting impacted businesses. This is a \$25,000 grant program for business applicants to request assistance based on how they were impacted by the pandemic. The total allocated budget is \$4 million.

As of September 2022, DOC awarded 177 totaling \$3,547,284 or 89% of the original allocation. Due to exceedingly popular demand, DOC ceased accepting applications on May 6th, 2022 with more than 450 applications submitted. To accommodate as many qualified applicants as possible, DOC intends to reallocate remaining funds from the *closed* CAP and RLOC programs. As a requirement under the ARPA Oversight Office, ASDOC has made all approved recipients publicly available on the DOC website.

Business Recovery Capital Program (BRCP) - Revolving Line of Credit (RLOC)

The RLOC is also funded by ARPA with an allocated budget of \$5 million. The program applications ceased on July 29, 2022. There are a total of 29 approved applications since the beginning of the year totaling \$4.65 million. The remaining \$350,000 may be reallocated to the BRCP-Grant program. The first 5 customers will have their facilities due in January 2023. DOC is working on the renewal options for these maturing facilities. A list of recipients is also made available on the DOC website.

STATUS	Total
Approved	240
Denied	88
Under Review	17
Incomplete	7
Total CAP Applications	352

Cash Assistance Grant Program for Impacted Businesses

The Cash Assistance Program (CAP) for impacted businesses provided relief to non-essential businesses impacted by the COVID19 restrictions declared in the State of Public Health Emergency of American Samoa. The CAP for Impacted Businesses assists with payment for operational and overhead expenses. An overview of CAP Applications by status is as follows:

New Industry Development

Broadband Industry

The Department of Commerce was recently designated as a representative for American Samoa on the National Broadband Advisory group for States and Territories with the National Governors Association. This is an effort to stay up to date with the latest on broadband developments. The Biden Administration is injecting billions in broadband initiatives especially throughout the pandemic.

Fisheries Industry

One of the four super-alia boats is being built at the moment, and the department aims to deliver it in time for Flag Day 2023. There will be a small fleet of 4 modern and upgraded catamaran commercial fishing vessels that will support the growth of our local fishing fleet. One vessel will function as a training platform while the other 3 vessels will function as business incubators. Project outcomes include improved diversification of our economy, creation of jobs & economic opportunities, workforce development, and the long-term sustainability of the fresh fish industry. The boat builder contractor Armstrong Consolidated Inc.

Rental Housing Industry

Emergency Rental Assistance Program - The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has assisted 470 households over the past year with pay outs for rental and utility assistance totaling over \$2.6 million. The ERAP has 129 landlords enrolled. Payments are issued directly to the landlord and utility companies. Exceptions can be made if the landlord does not wish to participate in the program and payouts will be issued directly to the tenant with the stipulation that all payments receipts are provided as proof of rental payment. The program remains open up to calendar year 2025 and we host regular zoom workshops to go over program requirements and issue certification numbers that are required to complete the online application.

Tourism Industry

Tramway Memorial Park - this grant project is in the initiation phase. Project fund is worth \$61,500, which will fund small improvements to the historic tramway site.

CARES Act Tourism Initiative has been initiated. Planning has purchased and delivered new dog traps to support our local veterinarian clinic and to address the growing stray dog problem. Coordinating efforts are also underway to complete a facelift for the Registrar’s Office, a historic Naval building.

Village-Based Tourism Infrastructure - Planning is also coordinating with Samoan Affairs to initiate a small scale, village-based tourism infrastructure project known as “Atina’e i Afioaga”

Digital Economy

DocuSign- The Department of Commerce currently utilizes an automated signature system called DocuSign for internal review and approval. This system is a fast, reliable way to electronically sign documents ranging from, but not limited to, payment packages, contracts, agreements, and other types of correspondence on practically any device, whether at home, in the office, or on the road. This has allowed the process to move the programs swiftly throughout the year, especially for federally funded programs administered by the DOC such as the Emergency Rental Assistance, ARPA Business Recovery Programs, and the Cash Assistance Program for Impacted Businesses.

Online Business License Portal- The department of commerce continues to receive new or renewal business license applications via its online portal on the department website. This is an alternate option to walking into the office for a paper application. DOC continues to see a rising number of this new online service.

Information & Communications Technology (ICT)- Development planning for the American Samoa Innovation & Technology Campus at the Tafuna Government Housing site is underway. This initiative also includes collaborative work with other agencies to develop the Lion’s Park, Veterans Stadium (and surrounding areas), and Connect Centers (community hubs) in the Western and Eastern districts.

BPO Business Incubator Project- A \$188,800 grant award was approved from DOI OIA to support the BPO Business Incubator Project. Funding will support the expansion of the BPO Incubator project, adding 28 new workstations/seats in Fagatogo. Processing lease agreement for an additional location in Fagatogo to house a 28-seat call center. In the process of ordering equipment, furniture, and conducting necessary tenant improvements.

Internet Work Academy Program- Completed the Internet Work Academy (IWA) program, Phase I. The goal of the IWA is to train our workforce for opportunities with internet related or remote jobs. Phase II is currently being developed via a 12-month contractual agreement which aims to provide opportunities for upskilling throughout the coming year.

New VOIP Phone System- As a regular complaint from customers, it is a challenge to get through to the staff when calling the office phone number listed. As a result, the phone systems have been upgraded to a brand-new VoIP System by ASTCA. This included replacing the old cat-5 cables to the new cat-6 cable infrastructure for both data and voice.

Land Use Permitting Site Visit Data Collection Form- The Resources Management Division (RMD) Geographic Information System (GIS) team continues to collect locational data during site visits using Survey123. Data provides coordinates of future development, allowing the team to update building footprints and classification. Also, spatial features surrounding the proposed project location are also updated. Staff can now generate the site visit reports from Survey123 and a dashboard is available online for tracking and reporting purposes.

ASG Centralized Geospatial Database Management- The Department of Commerce’s GIS team continues to take the lead on the Geospatial Framework project in managing the American Samoa Government centralized geodatabase and data-sharing plan between all government agencies. With 16 partnered agencies, ESRI software has been deployed to 8, the GIS users who deal greatly with locational data – Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), American Samoa Telecommunication Authority (ASTCA), American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA), Department of Public Works (DPW), American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA), Governor’s Office (GO), Office of Disaster and Petroleum Management (ODAPM), and American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS). In the process of distributing the software, data has been collected from the following agencies along with EPA and DOC’s data: DMWR, ASTCA, ASPA, Land Grant, and ASDHS. Data will be shared among the partnered government agencies according to the Data Sharing Plan.

The GIS User’s Group successfully launched the geospatial portal, <http://asgis.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html>, in which data have been published and shared. Partner agencies and departments have access to the data on ArcGIS Online and an open data site is available at a local, state, and national level. In addition, the website is hyperlinked as an available public tool on the American Samoa Department of Commerce website.

Feature Updates- GIS continues to update features from data which was collected in the past. Features are created through digitization using 2012 aerial imagery and 2003/2005 data. Streams continue to be updated to mark existing streams and categorized off the basis of flow status. GIS also continues to update wetland zoning and data analysis, observing development near and within wetland areas.

Foreign Trade & Investment Opportunities

Atoa o Samoa Executive Meetings

The discussions between both Samoa’s were an opportunity to address various social and economic challenges and how both islands could help strengthen cooperation between the two Samoa’s in developing areas of mutual interests. Key issues that were discussed included the following: Health, Economy, Education, Information and Communication Technology, Immigration, Agriculture and Fisheries, Finance, Environment, Climate, Weather & Geoscience, Transport between the islands, Public Works matters, and Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Second Atoa o Samoa Executive Meeting was successful as both leaders highlighted a pathway for the two



Samoa's to move forward collaboratively. To officially conclude the meeting, Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa and Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga signed a Memorandum of Understanding highlighting mutual development and collaboration in the following areas: Trade, Banking Services, Labour Mobility, Telecommunications, Health, Education, Sports, Culture, Tourism, Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change, Agriculture and Fisheries, Border Security, Law Enforcement/Search and rescue and gender Equality.

American Samoa Delegation to the 2022 SelectUSA Investment Summit

The US Department of Commerce event is held every year, but it has been three years since they have hosted an in-person convention due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although American Samoa initially participated in the SelectUSA virtual summit last year, this is the first time an American Samoa delegation has attended the annual convention. More than 1,500 foreign companies, investors, state and territorial economic development organizations are attending this year. The summit is organized by the US Department of Commerce – International Trade Administration's SelectUSA program. Governor Lemanu Mauga is the first Governor of American Samoa to attend a SelectUSA Investment Summit since its inception. Governor Lemanu spoke at the Governor's panel about infrastructure investments in rural and urban communities. Director of Commerce Petti Matila also participated in a roundtable discussion with US Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves, and Director of Investment Research Liz Schaefer about investing in underserved communities. The SelectUSA summit has proven to attract more businesses into the US market for job creation opportunities across the nation.



American Samoa Government Benchmark Trip to South Korea

Governor Lemanu's Benchmark Trip to South Korea, specifically to Jeju Special Self-Governing Province, a small island government of South Korea, was an effort to learn more about the critical infrastructural development of Jeju Island with respect to sustainability and adaptation. Jeju is a world leading small island nation in the areas of renewable energy, electrical vehicles, and information technology. Jeju is well known for its tourism, service, construction and infrastructure industries. This trip was a follow-up meeting as a result of meetings Governor Lemanu had during the US Department of Commerce SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington DC a few months ago. Other state governors have also returned from South Korea to attract business and investments to their states. American Samoa is also in a position to delve more into public private partnership opportunities to attract more business opportunities on island with the overall goal to create more jobs and improve the quality of life across the territory.



South Korea delegation on an 'invest in American Samoa' Trip

A fifteen-member delegation of executives visited the Territory from November 28th to December 1st, 2022 to look into investment opportunities in American Samoa. The delegation was led by Mr. Daniel Myung, Chief Executive Officer of Norwegian Energy Solutions and Services (*NESS*)

Inc. The delegations had numerous meetings with various departments and cabinet members. The delegation visited the Manu'a Islands and was able to tour Lions Park, Department of Health Tafuna Family Health Center, and the ASTCA/Hawaiki landing station at the Ili'ili Golf Course. At the landing station, ASTCA introduced an investment opportunity to deploy a submarine cable between American Samoa and Apia, Samoa, to sell large wholesale capacity to other islands across the Pacific, establishing long-term contracts with other governments and phone companies across Polynesia.



Promoting Trade and Business Investments Opportunities

BTI continues to provide quality customer service in person plus immediate correspondence either via email or by phone. All necessary information regarding the business license procedure and/or laws in American Samoa is shared and readily available to applicants.

State International Development Organizations (SIDO) Best Practices & Training Forum

American Samoa is a SIDO member, and a team was sent to a best practices and training forum this past summer to learn more about international training and trade mission opportunities in which American Samoa can engage in the future. It was also an opportunity to learn about the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant from the Small Business Administration (SBA), in which American Samoa has never received before, but the DOC plans to pursue this funding opportunity to increase export opportunities for local businesses across the Territory.

Fesoasoani mo Tonga Humanitarian Drive

The American Samoa government together with the public provided monetary support and much needed resources to assist Tonga with recovery efforts. The number of donors reached well over 900. Most donors were a mixture of private sector businesses, faith-based organizations, executive branch departments, the FONO legislature, non-government organizations, and individuals. As a result of the Fesoasoani mo Tonga Humanitarian Drive that took place, American Samoa along with the Tongan Community, donated \$550,000 (\$1.2 million TOP), and 18 containers filled with nonperishable goods, clothing, and bottled water.

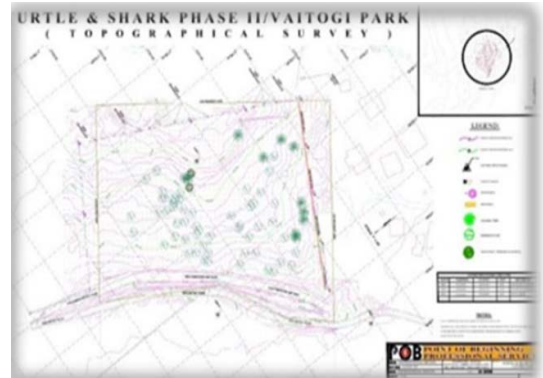
Urban Planning & Development

Westside Multipurpose Playground

The Westside Multipurpose Playground construction stage has been completed. A basketball and volleyball system has been installed. Wired fences have also been installed in order to fully secure the project site. Basketball and volleyball court lines have been marked. The last addition to the project that is currently ongoing is a standard signage to showcase the project title and its funding source. All Star Signs has been approved to provide the signage for the playground.

Vaitogi Development Phase 2

The 2nd phase of the Turtle and Shark Lookout involves various items that have all been incorporated into the project in order to provide a more wholesome experience for the public. The historical site will now be more accessible to the public and the public facilities on site will accommodate school trips, family outings and tourists' sightseeing. Several plans have already been submitted for review, much progress has been made since it was first put together, the final designs should be forthcoming.



Turtle and Shark Lookout

Earlier in 2022, the project progressed into its final stages. The team met regularly for our regular weekly site visit to the site. The substantial completion inspection was conducted by the funding source, contractor, and the architect of the project.

Rex Lee Auditorium

This year the facility was power washed, the plumbing was fixed, and the cleanout replaced. The maintenance and sound system contractors renewed their contacts for the upcoming year. Contracts to fix the roof and replace the stage tiles of the facility are currently underway pending Procurement processing.

Topographical Survey

In order to provide vital information for the design of the Vaitogi Park, a topographical survey needed to be carried out. Using this survey, the architect can best determine where each facility would be best situated.

Medical Plaza

Funding for the project was secured by the program team earlier in the year, a scope of work for a contractor to design the project is currently in process with Procurement for bidding.

Real Property Management

Lease Abatement

Lease Abatement assistance program was established to help defray costs absorbed by tenants for developing their lots that are not lease -ready by not charging rent for up to 4 years. An Executive Order dated in August 2021 rescinded and discontinued the program, so lease rate structures did not have to accommodate terms of the program. The following is the status of leases under this lease abatement program:

- 11 Leases completed their abatement periods
- 13 Leases have 2 or less months left of abatement; of this 13, 7 leases remain unresolved due to the preclusion of tenants by ASG from using their lots
- Leases have greater than 2 months left on their abatements; of this 4, 3 were the result of settlements ASG sought with tenants
- Total Arrears for all tenants as of Sep 2021 was \$526, 117.00. As a result of the Division's collections efforts, the total arrears have dropped as of October 2022 to \$498,190.55

- Payment Plans were negotiated and approved for 8 tenants with a total original amount of \$518,813.31. As of October 2022, the total arrears on payment plan are now \$487,396.00

Lease Rate Negotiations & Creation of New Lots

- Negotiated with an existing tenant their configuration of its existing lot that resulted in the creation of 1 new lot that is about to be leased out to a new tenant, thereby generating additional revenues for the TIP
- Plans on converting some areas of the buffer zone into new lots are ongoing
- Successfully negotiated increases in rental rates of 7 leases, one of which will generate an additional \$40,000 in new revenues annually for at least the next 5 years when the next increase is due for review.

Job Creation and Retention

Job creation and retention is part of our economic growth and stability. The influx of federal funding resources into the territory has also led to more job opportunities on the island. Furthermore, the Administration's intent to prioritize human capital is among its major accomplishments throughout 2022. Historic action has been taken to provide long overdue raises to Government employees across the board including our lowest earners and families. Further, strategies to recruit and retain critical public service professionals amid mass employee resignations, mental health burnout, and a workforce shortage crisis remains a challenge for State and Territorial Governments across the nation.

Department of Human Resources

The impact of COVID-19 restrictions forced the Department of Human Resources (DHR) to make adjustments to working remotely while fulfilling services for the community. The DHR worked remotely for 6 months and the success of the transition was dependent on technology. Once the restrictions allowed employees to return to work, the transition brought its own challenges. The DHR continued to provide solutions to meet the demanding services of the returning workforce and the general public.

The DHR has worked to improve, enhance, and innovate processes to help support the ASG workforce. The following list provides accomplishments in the year 2022 from each division within the DHR (Personnel, Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act, Administration & Finance, Drug & Alcohol Testing, Unemployment Insurance, and Compliance).

- Renovated the Records room where all government employee Official Personnel Files (OPFs) are stored
- Matrix & pay plan for Professional Engineers (PE) were created in collaboration with the Department of Port Administration & the Department of Public Works
- Reclassification of Accountants completed
- Reclassification of DOE Teachers to include Years of Service completed
- Training in Manu'a conducted
- Certification training for Classification Specialist in DC was initiated
- Successfully applied and received ARPA Public Building CDC Compliance grant award
- Successfully applied and received Technical Assistance grant through the Department of Interior to establish and train on Classification Standards for ASG positions

- Managed COVID-19 shot & booster records for all ASG employees
- Conducted ASG Personnel Representatives' Training for ASG Departments
- Despite COVID challenges, still able to ensure all employees were active and not blocked in the system to receive a paycheck
- Uptick in Facebook & Website traffic for job seekers
- Established the very first WIOA State Workforce Development Board
- Successfully completed the 4-year WIOA State Plan
- Apprenticeship State Expansion (ASE) program officially launched, which leads to a career path in 3 disciplines: Teacher Aide, Financial Technician, and Information Technology.
- Work-Based Learning (WBL) and On-The-Job-Training (OJT) programs were very active this year, which allowed departments to both train participants and hire those same participants into a career service position (given a favorable evaluation)
- Conducted a Samoan Day for SYEP participants
- Hosted Career Day event for youth and adult job seekers
- The ARPA Cash Assistance Program (ARPA CAP) launched in May, which saw 1842 applicants (out of 3547 applications received) receive cash assistance to assist them with financial constraints brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic; the remaining 1705 are pending approval and payments from other departments involved with the payout process.
- The ARPA CAP was also able to provide cash assistance to all 46 Talofa System Company's employees that applied.
- The ARPA CAP was also able to provide cash assistance to 95% of all 1869 eligible applicants from Starkist Samoa Inc.
- Provided Service Awards for 20-years of service (115 employees), 30-years of service (32), and 40-years of service (10)
- Successfully reviewed and approved 188 Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) applications

American Samoa Workmen's Compensation Commission

The American Samoa Workmen's Compensation Commission (WCC) is established and locally funded under Title 32: Chapter 05 of the American Samoa Code Annotated. WCC oversees and enforces the local Workmen's Compensation Act and system as prescribed under both Chapters 05 and 06 for the Territory of American Samoa. The WCC establishes and maintains injury/death compensation for all working government and private sector employees injured on the job. Year 2022 WCC accomplishments are as follows:

- The ASG WC Fund is up to \$5 million since August 2022 (unconsolidated) compared to \$1.2 million in FY2021.
- Drafting and finalization of more than 200 proposed rules and regulations for the American Samoa Administrative Code.
- First ever virtual informal hearings conducted by the Commission online. This technological feat is now integrated as a set standard of the Commission's operation.
- Mediated a total of 32 workers' compensation claim cases towards a successful settlement.
- Implementation and facilitation of employer's new and renewal Certificate of Compliance and Certificate of Non-Coverage process for FY23 which coincides with the commencement of DOC's recent business license cycle.

Department of Human & Social Services

The American Samoa Department of Human and Social Services (DHSS) continues to strive to make the lives of our people better through a wide range of programs and services aimed at ensuring positive outcomes for individuals, families, and communities. Eight divisions administer services in the areas of behavioral health; child care; children and family welfare; community-based capacity- building activities; nutrition and breastfeeding counseling and education; prevention outreach and public education for all DHSS programs; referral and support services for individuals with developmental disabilities; retailer licensing and enforcement for the American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program (ASNAP) and the American Samoa Women, Infants, and Children (ASWIC) Program and for the sale of tobacco products; sheltering and support services for victims of crime and the homeless; substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment; supplemental food assistance for low-income elderly, blind and disabled individuals; and supplemental food assistance for low-income women, infants, and children.

The year 2022 has been incredibly hard for many of American Samoa's families. Fortunately, DHSS, as well as our government, were tremendously successful in securing resources to help our families in many areas. Compared to two years ago, our people's lives are dramatically different because due the global pandemic. Our families continue to face social, economic, and health challenges amid high and persistent inflation, along with the repercussions and uncertainties caused by both the war in Ukraine and the lingering pandemic. Soaring food and energy prices have eroded real incomes, triggering a cost-of-living crisis, particularly for those who already make up the most vulnerable groups across our villages.

In 2022, DHSS focused on strengthening existing services and securing funds for new programs to assist our people as quickly, efficiently, and effectively as possible. The subsequent sections of this report provide more details about these accomplishments.

In 2022, DHSS served over 31,000 adults and children and injected close to \$30 million in client benefits/payments into our local economy. And, over 13,000 are served each month through our various programs.

DHSS is completely funded by federal grants. For the year 2022, DHSS operated on a budget of \$151 million (\$151,085,432). This is a combination of regular grant awards and COVID funding of \$104.1 million (\$104,186,709) from the second, third, and fourth quarters of Fiscal Year 2022, \$23.3 million (\$23,383,184) from the first quarter of fiscal year 2023, and \$25.5 million (\$25,515,545) of new monies that were applied for and received in 2022.

In addition to operating and strengthening the regular services offered by the ASNAP; ASWIC; Behavioral Health Services (BHSD); Child Care; Children and Family Services; Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC); Program Integrity and Tobacco Licensing and Enforcement, and Special Projects and Community Assistance divisions, DHSS also offered targeted services and support in dealing with the negative impact of the pandemic, such as (1) food assistance for all school children in kindergarten to grade 12 who lost access to free meals at school due to school closure or reduced school hours or days due to the pandemic; (2) continue paying subsidies to child care providers during the lockdown to protect the supply of child care; (3) expansion of child care services especially for essential critical infrastructure workers and first responders who must work extended hours; (4) introduced supplemental stipends for qualifying

teachers to encourage attendance and improve retention; (5) expansion of mental health and substance use treatment and prevention services for our community; (6) working to convert ASNAP benefit delivery system from food coupons to an Electronic Benefits Transfer system (EBT cards); (7) a one-time cash benefit for needy families with young children in mixed immigration households to pay for utilities, emergency food purchases or other critical needs; and (8) establishment of a new program that pays a \$150 monthly subsidy per child to support Court-appointed individuals and families to have physical custody of minors who cannot return home due to safety issues.

All the services provided by DHSS in 2022 have impacted the lives of almost every family in American Samoa. Some of DHSS achievements this year have been transformative for our island territory and included several services that became available for the first time in American Samoa for various segments of our community.

DHSS Accomplishments for year 2022 are as follows:

American Samoa Nutrition Assistance Program Significant Accomplishments

Second round of P-EBT for all school children: In March 2022, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved a request for \$9,408,751 (\$8,841,684 for benefits and \$567,067 for administrative costs) to administer the second round of Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program that provides food assistance for approximately 14,000 school children from kindergarten to grade 12 who lost access to free meals at school due to school closure during the COVID-19 lockdown. To date, 12,850 children from 5,921 households have received P-EBT benefits. USDA approved the request to extend the deadline to register for P-EBT from September 16, 2022, to December 30, 2022, and to extend the issuance of these benefits to December 30, 2022.

Conversion of ASNAP benefits from food coupons to EBT: In August 2022, the Office of Procurement awarded a contract to Maximus US Services, Inc. for project management services to plan and implement an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system to replace ASNAP's current coupon paper distribution system. In 2021, USDA approved the request to use \$3.88 million in ARPA funds to pay for this project to transition ASNAP benefits from food stamp coupons to an EBT system using EBT cards that are similar to ATM/debit cards.

Enhanced Nutrition Assistance for ASNAP recipients: In response to the request for additional funding, the USDA in September 2022 made available \$10 million in ARPA funds to address food insecurity and provide more equitable resources to American Samoa. They also approved the request to use the additional funding to do the following starting October 1, 2022:

- Increase monthly benefit allotments for all ASNAP recipients to \$277 from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023:
 - \$100 increase for participants who are currently receiving \$177
 - \$128 increase for participants who are currently receiving \$149
 - \$150 increase for participants who are currently receiving \$127
 - \$168 increase for participants who are currently receiving \$109
 - \$183 increase for participants who are currently receiving \$94
- Issue an additional \$208 in monthly benefits to one additional family member, for up to 1,080 families of the lowest income ASNAP recipients, thus raising their total monthly benefits from \$277 to \$485.

- Second round of Summer P-EBT for all school children: Also in September 2022, the USDA approved the request for \$6.4 million to issue a second round of Summer P-EBT benefits for the summer of 2022. Approximately 14,000 school children who were enrolled in public and private schools as of the end of School Year 2021-2022 will receive \$455 in P-EBT Summer food stamps before the end of the year.

American Samoa WIC Significant Accomplishments

Successfully prevented a shortage of infant formula in American Samoa: While the United States experienced severe shortages of infant formula for well over 6 months when Abbott Laboratories recalled Similac infant formula and shut down their plant in February 2022, DHSS averted an infant formula shortage in American Samoa by quickly securing three-months of free, relief shipments of infant formula from Abbott Laboratories. The first month's shipment was airlifted and received in March and baby formulas were distributed free of charge directly to parents of over 900 WIC babies. The second and third month's supplies were airlifted in April and May and were distributed free of charge to all authorized WIC retail stores.

Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) Significant Accomplishments

Accreditation of the American Samoa 988 Suicide and Mental Health Helpline: In collaboration with the Department of Health, DHSS BHSD successfully obtained the first accreditation of our local 988 Suicide and Mental Health Helpline by the International Council for Helplines. The accreditation validates the delivery of high quality service, best practices, and ethical standards. The accreditation is for a period of 5 years from September 2022 – September 2027.

Establishment of two Community-based Behavioral Health Centers: DHSS BHSD utilized SAMHSA COVID-19 funding to establish two community-based behavioral health centers to help individuals access behavioral health services with more ease and less stigma that can result from entering a government-based office. There is one community center in Pavaiai and another community center set up at the Pago Pago Plaza. Behavioral health counselors are assigned to both community sites to conduct intake, screening, assessment, treatment and referral for both substance abuse and mental health treatment. Both community centers are equipped for individual and group counseling sessions and clients have reported their appreciation for the community-based site which is closer to their homes and easier to access than the BHSD main office in Utulei. In addition to behavioral health treatment services, the community center in Pavaiai also includes a “clubhouse” for mental health services and is dedicated to providing mental health clients daily treatment sessions, mental wellness activities and respite care.

Child Care Division (CCD) Significant Accomplishments:

Unprecedented funding levels awarded for child care: A total of \$73,685,613 in Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) awards for subsidized child care services is available for American Samoa for 2022. This includes \$62,337,778 in supplemental COVID-19 awards appropriated by Congress in 2021, that remain accessible for 2022 through 2024 because the Child Care Division (CCD) applied for and was approved a waiver which allows for more time to obligate and liquidate these funds to improve the quality of child care for qualifying low-income families. Also, the regular CCDF award for American Samoa has almost doubled in 2022 to \$11,347,835, compared to an average of \$6,491,576 for the past 3 grant years.

Protecting and sustaining the supply of child care in American Samoa: The CCD took deliberate steps to request and gain approval for activities to protect and sustain the supply of child care services. These include increasing subsidy rates, delinking subsidy payments from attendance and paying based on enrollment, and continuing to issue full subsidy payments to authorized child care providers, even when they are ordered to close. Child Care providers continued to receive their subsidy payments for the 109 days that providers were closed because of an outbreak of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) infections on February 7, 2022, which was extended from February 22 through May 28, 2022, when the community spread of COVID-19 was confirmed on Tutuila. CCD was able to protect the jobs of over 250 employees and gave them the funding needed to continue paying them every two weeks, more than half of whom are earning above the current minimum wage of \$5.40/ hour. These ongoing subsidy payments also enabled the providers to pay other operational costs while they were closed, which allowed them to quickly resume operations when they were able to reopen at the end of May.

Expanded parental choice through increased number of child care facilities: The number of facilities caring for children has increased by almost 80% compared to last year (from 33 to now 43 at the close of 2022).

Children and Family Services Division (CFSD) Significant Accomplishments:

Establishment of a Court-Appointed Relative Assistance (CARA) Program:

Through funding under the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), the CFSD established a new program to pay monthly subsidies of \$150 per child to support court-appointed relatives/guardians to care and take physical custody of minors who cannot be reunified with their families due to safety reasons. There are currently 38 minors who are supported under this program.

Acquisition of Real Property for a Temporary Homeless Shelter: With assistance and support from the Attorney General's Office, ASG closed the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Sword Land Trust on November 15, 2022, to purchase the Afio Mai II Apartment complex in Ottoville for \$300,000. The real property contains 0.26 acres of individually owned land, and a six-unit apartment complex, comprising two buildings: one two-story concrete building containing four two-bedroom units and one single-story building containing two one-bedroom units. The apartment complex will be renovated at a cost of \$300,000 before it is used as a temporary homeless shelter. This project is paid for by an Emergency Solutions Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Secured funding to Renovate and Expand the new location of the Manaia Shelter in Malaeimi Valley: DHSS recently secured funding of \$343,755.14 through the Governor's Office to improve and expand a house and property that we purchased for \$220,000 in 2021 as the new location of the Manaia Shelter for children and women who are victims of domestic violence and related crime. When completed, the new Manaia Shelter will have 4 bedrooms for boys, 4 bedrooms for girls, and 2 self-contained rooms for women with children. It will also have two bathrooms, a kitchen, a family room, a living room, and a safe space outside for children to play. The project is estimated to be completed on February 28, 2023.

Assistance for People with Disabilities and Seniors:

Reserved Seating on Public Transportation – In building an inclusive community for persons with disabilities and seniors, DHSS’ Developmental Disabilities Planning Council (DDPC) continues to sign up bus owners to designate the front row seats of their aiga buses as reserved seating for persons with disabilities and seniors. To date, 30 owners of 81 aiga buses participate in Project Move where sticker decals are affixed on the front row seats of their buses to designate them as, “reserved seating for persons with disabilities and seniors”. Placards are also affixed to the front dashboard and/or windshield of the 81 buses designating them as, “Priority Seating Available”.

Funding to Assist the Disability Community - DDPC received \$95,000 in ARPA funds to expand the public health workforce within the disability network to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges. DHSS is currently considering a variety of options to best utilize these funds to benefit our community.

Restaurants now Accepting ASNAP Food Coupons: – With USDA approval, the ASNAP started accepting applications from local restaurants to participate in the Restaurant Meals Program where ASNAP recipients, who are low-income elderly, blind, and disabled individuals, can enjoy a meal in our local restaurants using their ASNAP benefits. To date, only five (5) local restaurants have met the Program requirements and are authorized to accept the ASNAP food coupons only.

Mobile ASWIC Clinic for Remote Villages: - The ASWIC purchased a 2022 Transit Cargo van for use as a fully equipped mobile clinic to expand access to ASWIC services for residents in remote villages. The van is being converted into a WIC clinic on wheels where full service will be delivered inside/outside of the van before the end of the year thus eliminating the need for participants and applicants in rural villages to visit a WIC clinic to receive WIC services.

Assistance for Children, Families, Victims of Crime, as well as Individuals and Families

Experiencing Homelessness: The Children and Family Services Division (CFSD) focuses its services on the safety and protection of children and promotion of stable and self-sufficient families through a wide array of services that include child protective services; adoption, foster care and guardianship; emergency shelters for victims of crimes, and individuals and families experiencing homelessness; child welfare services; and adult protective services.

Programs/Services	Individuals/Families Served
Adoption	303
Adult Protective Services (e.g., elder abuse or neglect, domestic violence, etc.)	303
Child Protective Services (e.g., Domestic violence, abuse or neglect, etc.)	81
AIGA Care (e.g., foster care placement of children with family members)	497
Crisis Intervention (e.g., shelter for victims of crime)	373
Emergency Solutions (e.g., shelter and rental assistance for individuals and families experiencing homelessness)	466
Total individuals and families served from January to November	2,023

Between January and November, CFSD provided the following services to American Samoa’s children, families, and community.

Emergency Medical Services for Low-Income Individuals and Families- To guarantee emergency and/or medical services to clients under the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), CFSD executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the LBJ Tropical Medical Center on January 4, 2022. This MOU is to assist low-income individuals and families registered under the ESG Program who require medical attention/services but do not have the financial means to visit the hospital.

Cash Assistance for Extremely Low-Income Families - The CFSD was awarded \$494,816 on June 11, 2021, in Pandemic Emergency Assistance Funds (PEAF) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. DHSS submitted and received approval from the federal grantor to issue a one-time cash payment to extremely low-income families for utilities, emergency food purchases, or other critical needs. Eligible families receive \$200 per child for up to 4 children. Applications were opened to the public from January 18-31, 2022, and one-time payments were issued to the most extremely low-income families who applied. By the close of the AS-PEAF Program on September 30, 2022, DHSS issued \$484,200 in one-time cash payments to 961 extremely low-income households with 2,421 children.

Child Care Assistance for Low-Income Families - The Child Care Division (CCD)

helps families gain and maintain economic self-sufficiency by subsidizing child care assistance to qualifying low-income parents so that they can continue to work, attend school or an approved training program that increases job skills and promotes professional advancement, or actively seek employment. We also work with providers to reach and maintain standards for healthier, safer, and more nurturing child care services for all children. The chart illustrates the average number of families and children CCD subsidized child care services for each month from January to December 2022:

Type of Provider	Families	Children
Child Care Center	Average of 890 per month	Average of 1,310 per month
Family Child Care Home	Average of 8 children per month per facility	Average of 10/month
In-Home Child Care	Average of 66 per month	An average of 125 children are served in the child's own home because of their parents' 24/7 work schedule(s).
Totals	Average of 964 per month	Average of almost 2,450 per month

Increased Number of Child Care Providers Remains Sustainable- The number of child care providers (centers, family child care homes, and in-home) remains at about 100 child care Providers. The regular grant award, specifically for child care, has increased by almost 80% (now \$7,849,137 from \$5,267,743) is sufficient to sustain the increased subsidy levels at the current participation level, with room to grow.

In-Home Child Care- In addition to offering options to parents with children with special needs, the expansion of in-home child care to essential critical infrastructure area workers who are subject to non-traditional work hours and/ or 24/7 work schedules. An average of about 70 families received in-home services each month over this reporting period.

Behavioral/Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention-

Services for Individuals and Families - The Behavioral Health Services Division (BHSD) continues to provide treatment and counseling programs for individuals experiencing issues with

Program/Services	Individuals Served
Community Mental Health Treatment Services	459
Substance Abuse Treatment Services	427
Individuals Screened for the State Opioid Response Program (Duplicative)	397
Individuals Who Screened as Positive for Stimulant Use Disorder	26
Total individuals served from January to November (Unduplicated)	886

behaviors, mental health, and/or substance use disorder through the Community Mental Health Services (CMHS), Substance Abuse Treatment Services (SATS), and the State Opioid Response (SOR) Project. CMHS and SATS deliver treatment or counseling services while the SOR project is responsible for conducting

drug abuse screening on individuals referred for a substance use-related issue or behavior(s). The chart illustrates the BHSD services between January and November.

Additional Funding for the American Samoa 988 Suicide and Mental Health Helpline- In 2022, DHSS BHSD was awarded \$500,000 in federal grants to assist with the operations of the American Samoa 988 Suicide and Mental Health Helpline. In January, BHSD was awarded \$250,000 in Transformational Transfer Initiative (TTI) funding to support Workforce Development for the American Samoa 988 Crisis Response System. DHSS BHSD was able to recruit and hire six (6) Crisis Response Workers to serve as operators manning the American Samoa 988 crisis center and helpline on a 24-hour, 7 days-a-week basis. This funding will also fund the certification of all six (6) crisis response workers through the International Council of Helplines Crisis Specialist Certification. In May, SAMHSA awarded \$250,000 to build the territory's 988 capacity to respond to crises. DHSS BHSD has allocated this funding to improve the 988 response capacity, improve policies and procedures and establish a mobile crisis response team for the territory. In November, DHSS submitted its application for the SAMHSA 988 grant supplemental funding of \$450,000, which will go to sustaining the crisis response workforce, implementing mobile crisis support, and improving community-based crisis response.

Several opportunities are being pursued to expand access to DHSS services; develop staff capacity to better serve our people, and streamline existing policies and procedures to deliver DHSS services effectively and efficiently. Opportunities include but are not limited to the following:

Expanding ASNAP to include All Low-income Families - DHSS is still pursuing the request to USDA to expand the ASNAP to provide equity for low-income families in accessing food assistance, similar to needy families living in the 50 states and the other 4 territories, and provide parity in benefit levels issued to ASNAP recipients similar to SNAP recipients residing in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. However, DHSS was recently advised by USDA to obtain a specific congressional amendment to the law that authorizes funding for the ASNAP in order for them to help us. Meanwhile, there are pending bills in the U.S. Congress to expand the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (Regular Food Stamp) to American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico as well as recommendations to achieve this through the 2023 reauthorization of the Farm Bill. If the extension of SNAP to AS, CNMI, and PR is passed by the U.S. Congress and enacted into law, DHSS' goal will be easily achieved.

Year-round Food Assistance for School Children - DHSS submitted a proposal to USDA to fund a supplemental school meal benefits program where families will receive food stamp coupons each month to help purchase food for school children when they have no access to school meals on weekends, holidays, and school breaks. If approved, this will help families purchase food for their children when they are not in school.

Expanded Rental Assistance for Individuals and Families Experiencing Homelessness - The ESG offers opportunities for property owners who have residential spaces that can be leased to ESG participants from 3 months or up to 2 years, at up to \$500/month with security deposits and a flat rate fee to assist with monthly utilities.

Workforce Development - Supplemental appropriations funding resources offer vast opportunities to access training and technical assistance for our workforce to enhance and improve the delivery of behavioral health treatment in the territory, including advancing clinical skills for counselors through college courses, fellowships, or clinical licensing (e.g., Licensed Clinical Social Worker, LCSW) programs.

Recruitment of Clinicians such as Psychologists/Psychiatrists/LCSW - The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the serious shortage of behavioral health clinicians in the territory. However, this is an opportunity to address the need to expand our behavioral health services by integrating telehealth for intensive treatment and psychological evaluations/assessments. DHSS will explore additional funding for telehealth clinicians and local and off-island partners for this purpose.

Improving Quality of Care for Early Care and Learning - COVID-funded projects supplement current CCD initiatives and include measures to ensure that these improvements are sustainable once the influx of appropriations has expired. Also, Child Care ARP Act Stabilization funding offers even more opportunities for qualifying child care providers to further improve the quality of care through sub grants that can help improve facilities, raise employee wages, etc.

DHSS has worked diligently in 2022 to meet the challenges they faced, to effectively and efficiently deliver a wide array of services for our families and communities while maintaining program integrity. DHSS is constantly exploring ways to expand the types of services offered and reduce the complexities in our systems to make these services more accessible for all.

Development Bank of American Samoa

The Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS) is a semi-autonomous agency of the American Samoa Government (ASG) established in 1969 by Title 28, Section 28.0101. The primary function of DBAS is to serve the community of American Samoa by providing affordable financial programs. DBAS serves businesses by financing start-up or expansion ventures. DBAS also finances new home construction and home repair to improve the quality of housing in the Territory. It is a conduit for economic diversification, yielding financial capacity to the people of American Samoa, be involved in the development process in the various facets of societal growth, and be a source of fair housing for the residents in American Samoa.

Following is an overview and result of the DBA's efforts and accomplishments at the institutional level which has achieved the DBAS mission that is for the most part pertinent in support of the American Samoa Government's vision to improve the quality of the lives of the people of the American Samoa.

Loans Department Major Accomplishments October 2021-October 2022

From the years 2021 to 2022, DBAS funded a total of 59 home renovations and new home construction loans through its Direct Mortgage Loan Program totaling \$1,102,500.00. Through the Federally funded HUD HOME program, 12 new homes were approved, built, completed and in progress from 2021 to 2022 with a total amount of \$698,786.00. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and outbreak, all HUD workshops and lottery events were conducted virtually on Facebook Live.

Through the federally funded Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (EDRLF) program, one existing business has been productively funded with a total of \$10,000.00. In addition, DBAS has partnered with the VA Native American Direct Loan (NADL), another federally funded loan program that is for the returning Veterans to build their homes in American Samoa. This program approved 11 loans with a loan volume of \$2,579,340.00.

For small business developments from October 2021 to October 2022, DBAS has also funded the following programs:

- 7 small businesses through the direct micro loan of \$14,000.00.
- 2 start-up businesses through the direct commercial loan program with a total amount of \$30,000.00.
- 1 Direct Special Project Commercial for a total of \$50,000.00.
- 34 Special Project Commercial Loans (Small Business loans) for Farmers with a total amount of \$56,000.00
- 27 Special Project Commercial Loans (Small Business loans) for Fishermen with a total amount of \$58,000.00

In March 2021, DBAS launched a Special Project Commercial Loans for farmers' and in April 2021, Special Project Commercial Loans was launched for fishermen. These loans helped promote and support small businesses, especially during the pandemic. Special Project Commercial loans for farmers and fishermen succeeded with the approval of a total of 61 loans as it continued through 2022, with a volume of \$114,000.00.

DBAS continues to serve the Manu'a islands by providing the same services available in Tutuila for the Manu'a islands. Out of the 61 loans for fishermen and farmers, 20 of the funded loans are from the Manu'a islands.

The following table shows the various programs offered at DBAS, total amounts disbursed; and jobs created in FY2022.

Loan Programs Oct. 2021-Oct. 2022	# Of Loans	Volume	# Employed	# Of Household
1 Direct Consumer: HIU	48	\$ 632,500.00	117	167
2 Direct Consumer: HIS	6	\$ 250,000.00	24	36
3 Direct Mortgage (New Home)	5	\$ 220,000.00	20	22
4 HUD-HOME Loan Program	12	\$ 698,786.00	43	55
5 VA Home Program	11	\$ 2,579,340.00	30	38
6 Direct Commercial	2	\$ 30,000.00	10	N/A
7 Direct Micro	7	\$ 14,000.00	8	N/A
8 Special Project Commercial	62	\$ 164,000.00	119	N/A
9 EDRLF	1	\$ 10,000.00	3	
TOTAL	154	\$ 4,598,626.00	374	318

Finance Department Major Accomplishments (October 2021-October 2022)

DBAS managed to maintain its goal of having a clean audit every year. Due to COVID-19 outbreak, an audit was conducted virtually from November 2020 to September 2021. The final audit opinions for financial statements were presented fairly in all material respects for FY2019. The audit for FY2020-FY2021 commenced in January 2022.

In 2016 DBAS loaned two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) from the American Samoa Government Employee Retirement Fund (ASGERF) to increase funding for home and business development. This funding allowed DBAS to assist 180 homeowners to improve their dwellings, and 12 businesses to sustain their operations. With the approval from the DBAS Board of Directors, DBAS paid off the entire ASGERF loan in the amount of \$2,505,707.00 in October 2021.

DBAS Human Resources Accomplishments (*October 2021-October 2022*)

In partnership with the ASG Human Resources, DBAS received 17 participants in the 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program. The participants demonstrated good work ethic and were a great addition to the DBAS family. At the end of the program DBAS requested to retain three participants to continue working at DBAS through the WIOA program until the new fiscal year for DBAS. However, due to funding and availability of participants, DHR was able to send back only one participant. DBAS serves as a training ground to foster skills to help promote good work ethics among its employees.

Research and Grants Department Accomplishments

DBAS MAOTA Affordable Loan Project

On May 24, 2022, DBAS was awarded \$8,000,000.00 under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) by the American Samoa ARPA Oversight Office for the DBAS Maota Affordable Loan Project (DBAS MALP). DBAS greatly appreciates this opportunity for American Samoa as COVID-19 exacerbated housing disparities and home insecurities.

DBAS has developed DBAS MALP to address local needs, provide necessary housing assistance, and strengthen communities. The DBAS MALP pursues the following objectives: (1) To improve and build quality homes, (2) To increase suitable living environments within the community, (3) To increase economic opportunities and (4) To increase the number of affordable housing units.

In June 2022, DBAS was able to conduct public meetings with Tutuila and the Manu'a Island residents to inform them of the opportunity that could benefit them under the DBAS MALP. On August 9 and 10, 2022, mandatory workshops for interested residents of the Eastern and Western Districts of Tutuila were conducted at the Lee Auditorium, where over 500 individuals participated. The first DBAS MALP lottery draw was conducted on September 6, 2022, when winners were selected randomly. The 25 winners had a chance to apply for home repairs; 15 winners from the Eastern District and 15 winners from the Western District got a chance to apply for a new home loan. Out of the 55 DBAS MALP lottery winners, 25 applicants were approved for a home repair loan or a new home loan with a total amount of \$868,499.00.



The Second DBAS MALP workshops were conducted on September 19, 2022, for the Tutuila districts. The DBAS MALP Lottery for the second round was held on October 17, 2022, and lottery winners' applications have been accepted and are currently in the review process.

Step Into Virtual Banking

On June 16, 2021, DBAS was awarded \$255,811.00 under the Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Grant by the Department of Interior for its Step into Virtual Banking Project. Living in a technological accelerated era demands updated software and hardware computer systems for any institution to operate efficiently. To adapt to the changes of modern way of living has led DBAS to search for avenues and strategies to make virtual banking a reality and to withstand any unforeseen circumstances in the future. The TAP grant will assist in upgrading DBAS's computers,

network infrastructure, and procuring related equipment. The new network system installation is still in progress, and Step into Virtual Banking Project will be completed in March of 2023

DBAS FY2022 Shovel Ready Projects and Proposals:

Proposals for Funding Opportunities

The DBAS submitted the following proposals for funding opportunities:

- DBAS Housing Rehabilitation Assistance Project (HRAP) under the USDA Housing Service (RHS), Rural Housing Preservation Grant (RHPG)
 - Goal: To assist the residents of Aunu'u with housing related repairs they may need.
 - Funding is a 100% grant and not a loan.
 - Has been awarded \$100,000.00
- DBAS Office Improvement Project under the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grant Program
 - Goal: To establish, in six months, an improved DBAS office environment for efficient and effective delivery of services to the community
 - Has been awarded \$72,456.00

DBAS continues to serve the American Samoa community equitably and steadfastly strives to develop new programs under local or federal funding to further assist the people of American Samoa to address their economic, social, financial, and development needs. As the year 2023 approaches, DBAS looks forward to serving Tutuila and Manu'a communities with deeper commitment to implementing effective programs and providing efficient, effective, and equitable services in partnership with the private sector and other ASG agencies.

Office of Financial Institutions

The Mission of the Office of the Financial Institution (OFI) is to establish and maintain a financial regulatory and supervisory system for American Samoa (Territory) financial systems, consistent with local and federal Banking Laws and standards. .

OFI 2022 Updates:

- Hired a Compliance Officer
- Hired an Admin Assistant
- Successful registration of new hires with CSBS for examiner training
- Scheduled with FRB examination of TBAS in October 2022.
- Continuation of OFI DOC collaboration for licensing of businesses offering financial services.
- MOU created between OFI DOC for information sharing on MSB remittances
- Establishment of a process with DOC in regards to LLC businesses registrations
- Working collectively with FinCen to obtain access to their online portal in order to regulate all Financial Institutions, MSB's, and all other businesses offering financial services.

Registration of businesses offering financial services (All Others)

OFI Certifications Issued	Pending / Application process
44	2 MSB / 1 Small Loans

Registration of Money Services Businesses

- Continued renewals of certifications for all MSBs
 - Pacific Holdings, Solid Corporation, Samoa Money Transfer, Google, and BAM Trading Services, Inc.
 - Potential clients - Paypal and PacificEzy Limited

TBAS BSA/AML Examination

- 1st Limited Examination conducted in June 2018
- 2nd Limited BSA/AML Examination conducted in December 2020
- 3rd Limited BSA/AML Examination conducted in November 2022

Training conducted by CSBS (Conference of State Bank Supervisors) and the CSBS Education Foundation

- Bank Secrecy Act / Anti-Money Laundering (BSA/AML) Examiner Series 1 Virtual Training completed for all OFI staff in March 2021; total of 24 hours
- BSA/AML Examiner Series 2 Virtual Training completed for OFI staff in May 2021; total of 24 hours
- 80 hours of independent online training obtained by CSBS and the Education Foundation for courses assigned
- New hires completed Examiner Series 1 Virtual Courses
- Quarterly Examiner Exchange Series completed June 6th
- Advanced BSA/AML Specialist Conference completed June 14th & 15th
- Additional training pending training schedule from CSBS

Total Fees Collected FY 2022

Money Transmittal Fee - \$762,924.09

50% to General Fund 50% to OFI - \$381,462.05 (*As prescribed in A.S.C.A. § 28.1321*)

Registration / Examination Fees Collected - \$31,510.00 (100% to General Fund)

Continue Training and Dialogue with CSBS and CSBS Education Foundation

- Working collectively with FRB to assist with examination procedures for the exam for the Territorial Bank of American Samoa.
- Establishing access to the FinCen Portal to obtain reports from local financial institutions required by federal regulations
- Establishment of a local process and an examination manual to examine local Money Service Businesses and all other businesses offering financial services

Insurance Commissioner's Office

2022 updates are as follows:

- Completed the ICO Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).
- IC as Advocating for Policyholders - Settled 2022 Consumer Complaints with three (3) against Redbridge Insurance and one (1) against American Fidelity for a total of \$12,734.37 recouped for policyholders.
- Completed sorting & organizing all Progressive/Oxford/Insurance Company of the Pacific investigation files for seven (7) years retention on individuals/businesses until current investigation is completed.
 - Successful filing Court Affidavit/Injunction to 'freeze' assets Progressive Pago, Oxford, and Insurance of the Pacific with ANZ Bank Amerika Samoa.
 - Worked with Treasury to open a 'Special Escrow Account under Treasury/AS Insurance Commissioner' to act as a 'Clearing/Holding' account for funds/assets from insolvent and liquidated insurer awaiting final court distribution/disposition as in the case of Progressive Pago, Oxford, and Insurance of the Pacific ongoing investigation.
 - The above 'Special Escrow Account' will also be used for insurer 'Surety Cash Bond' funds from the ANZ Bank awaiting final Surety Cash Bond account setup and opening with TBAS for the applicable insurers.
- Submitted A.S. C.A. Title 29 proposed amendments and changes routed through the Office of the Governor's Legal Counselor for final submission to the Legislature (Fono).
- Completed the 2022-2023 Renewal and Licensing for local authorized insurance companies, agents, and brokers.

American Samoa Visitors Bureau

The American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB) continues to focus on expanding, strengthening, and developing the tourism and hospitality industry within the territory. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic changed this industry for American Samoa and has forced ASVB to redefine what tourism means for our community and how they can change our residents' perception of an industry that can still have economic benefits for our people, without the past normal concept of cruise ships and easily accessibility into and out of our islands. The ASVB focuses on domestic and sustainable tourism plans with emphasis on local product development. It is ASVB's desire to encourage and support our local residents to create business activities, within their villages, to encourage residents, from all over the territory, to visit their village and participate in these different activities and business services available.

Marketing

With the continued impact that COVID-19 is having on the territory, ASVB have pivoted its focus from traditional marketing methods to utilizing cyber marketing tools through virtual trade show booths, social media campaigns, and live streams in their continued marketing and promotional efforts. The ASVB has also continued to actively develop and pursue various off-island marketing promotions to old and new potential visitors via destination tradeshow.

Website Relaunch

www.AmericanSamoa.travel relaunched with a new site interface, rebranded homepage, and with added local events, important COVID-19 restrictions, TalofaPass, and Safe Travel information and updates.

Social Media Efforts

The American Samoa Visitors Bureau has increased their social media following and continues to update their website. They have covered local events, e.g Little league openings, cultural program events, etc. to inform local residents, off-island viewers of the many activities and sites to “Explore, Experience, and Enjoy”. Since re-launching the online digital marketing campaign in 2021, ushered in by the hiring of staff and purchase of new equipment, the American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB) has seen a major increase in the number of Facebook Followers and more importantly, an exponential increase in Follower Engagement and Total Reach. The ASVB team continues to promote the branding of the “Triple E” program - to “Explore, Experience, & Enjoy” our home.

The American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB) has seen a significant increase in the number of Facebook Followers and, more importantly, an exponential rise in Follower Engagement and Total Reach:

Website: Platform reach 57k visits, 51k unique visitors

Facebook: Page reach 186,516 - Increase of 31.3%

Instagram: Platform reach 70,464 - Increase of 22.3%

YouTube: Platform reach 21.3k views, 142.7k impressions

Cruise Ship Visits

Cruise Ships continue to be canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic in American Samoa. ASVB preparations and tourism industry requests have been made to re-approve cruise ship entry into the territory, as the schedule of cruise ships have already been announced for 2023, pending the GAR and Task Force approval.

21st Native Hawaiian Convention – ASVB Executive Director was invited as a panelist, hosted by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA). The CHA focuses beyond Native Hawaiian issues as evident by the landmark contract they have been awarded for tourism promotional projects to support the industry in Hawaii that we can glean from as we all recover from the devastating impacts of COVID-19.

SPTO Digital Marketing Trends and Toolkits

ASVB continues to partner with industry experts in the South Pacific Trade Organization, to stay updated with tourism efforts across South Pacific and worldwide by connecting and sharing data analytics, impacts, and experiences. SPTO has continued to assist ASVB with discussing the importance of leveraging tourism data and insights to restart tourism, and redefine how to adapt moving forward in a post-COVID environment.

ASVB project funds under DOI/OIA's Technical Assistance Program

- \$256,000 - For the Local Visitors Attraction Product projects

- \$85,290 - for the design portion of the Fagatogo/Upper Fagaalu Reservoir Heritage Trail Project

Pago Pago Harbor Boat Tours – In collaboration with the Department of Port Administration the first Harbor Tours were launched in October.

“Fale Lalaga” – Continued filming video series with Host Poe Mageo.

“Moso’oi Month” – Special Film segment filming with Dr. Salu Hunkin Finau and Reverend Fetaia’i Fui discussing the multiple purposes of the Mosoo’i tree and flower.

“Leaping into the Future” - ASVB assisted a film and photo campaign shot in the beautiful countries of Samoa and American Samoa. With ASVB’s support, in August of 2022, Olivia Jenkins, professional, world-record holding kite surfer crossed the ocean between American and Western Samoa to be the first kite surfer ever to cross the dateline.

Land Grant – Partnered with the ASCC Land Grant Forestry Division for the “Month of Mosooi” in October.

TAOA – Partnered with TAOA coordinator and Director to help promote TAOA’s weekly musical workshops on Wednesdays and for the “Month of Mosooi” in October.

Gravitas Pasefika – Collaborated on local events in October for the “Month of the Moso’oi” at the American Samoa Community College, and DDW for a night of “Music, Art, & Culture”.

NOAA NMSAS – participated and supported the 10th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa through social media collaborations and a special Fale Lalaga episode with Poe Mageo.

American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities – Collaborated on local events in October for the “Month of the Moso’oi” at the Arts Council.

VASA – Collaboration with private sector ‘Visit Amerika Samoa Association’ (VASA) on completing new village signs. Signs have been printed, pending a groundbreaking launch and planned installation around 70 villages in American Samoa.

So’oula I Asolelei Organization (SAO) – ASVB partnered with SAO, a women’s group, whose members are a few elderly women weavers who have organized themselves to weave and sell their wares to the public. They have been successful in providing naturally made handicrafts for local offices and offer an opportunity to include and mix our handicrafts with our office furniture and setting.

Tisa’s 17th Annual 2022 Tattoo Festival – Assisted local industry vendor the Alega Preservation Institute (API) for its annual tattoo festival and palolo celebrations.

Village Profiles - The goal is for ASVB to establish a framework to collect information to update our village profile logs on 70+ villages.

Local Opportunities - ASVB has collaborated with individuals/families to provide entrepreneurial opportunities in the visitor/tourism field. ASVB has developed these activities in Taputimu, Aua, Utulei, Ofu, Vaitogi, and Avaio, with upcoming projects to be launched in Maloata and Fagasa.

Virtual Quarantine Activities – ASVB assisted returning residents in quarantine with multiple hosted workshops via Zoom, highlighting their role in American Samoa.

1st Annual Mua Ō Festival – ASVB was a major sponsor and supporter of the Mua Ō Cultural Festival. ASVB provided monetary support, social media promotion and coverage as well as assistance in the documentation of this event.

Spotlight On – initial planning with DOC and KVZK as a means of awareness attracting future tourists, investors, and more. Spotlight On shows are short, educational 4–5-minute shows with a guaranteed airing platform on Public Television affiliates nationwide. Spotlight On is the only public awareness program that contractually guarantees a minimum of 500+ airings nationwide to a minimum of 3,000,000 public television viewers.

ACT AS One - ACT AS One, a call to action for COVID-19 vaccination in American Samoa under the American Samoa Community Cancer Coalition podcast interview with ASVB Executive Director.

Tramway Monument Collaboration - ASVB partnered with the assistance of Satala Shipyard, ASPA, DPR, Governor’s office and Veteran Affairs representatives to assist with refurbishment of the monument, site and light repairs for the Memorial Day wreath laying ceremony and tourism efforts.

The ASVB will continue to promote and support the expansion and development of our local product, while marketing these to our residents. We have aggressively worked at keeping a balance between local development and marketing/promotional efforts with our off-island markets.

STATE OF HEALTHCARE

Improving the health of our people remains a top priority of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration. While steady progress has been made to enhance the quality of healthcare services, much needs to be done to overcome the adverse effects of ongoing systemic challenges and recovery from a global pandemic.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

In the early stages of the pandemic, American Samoa through a zero-COVID approach, aggressive Territory-wide vaccination efforts, and phased border restrictions, remained COVID free until February 22, 2022, when the highly transmissible Omicron variant and first case of local community transmission was confirmed.

Keeping American Samoa's borders closed indefinitely was unsustainable given long-term economic impacts and limited healthcare services available on-island for the sick, elderly, and veterans. Further, tens of millions in COVID funding were exhausted on mass vaccination campaigns and incentives, complex quarantine operations, and economic relief due to limitations to commercial hours and travel restrictions in and out of our Territorial ports. Nonetheless, prevention efforts allowed ASG the time to bolster the protection of residents through vaccinations in the event of likely community spread. On February 22, 2022, when the first local community transmission of the coronavirus was confirmed, ASG realigned its response efforts from prevention to containment and responded swiftly to protect the sole hospital and by providing treatment to patients infected by the Omicron variant. The following is a summary of the American Samoa COVID-19 response efforts:

Elevated Threat Level to Code Red: On February 21, 2022, Governor Lemanu ordered to elevate the Territorial COVID-19 threat level to Code Red-resulting in a territory wide lockdown. In accordance with the Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency, dated February 4th, 2022, the elevated level of threat implemented the following: the closure of all schools and daycares (activating virtual learning plans), suspension of ASG operations except for first responders and essential personnel (activating virtual and telework where necessary), closure of outpatient clinics and limited pharmacy services, limited business hours (5 am to 4 pm), suspension of all air and sea travel, no public gatherings, mandated mask use in all facilities both public and private, mandated home self-quarantine, dine-in service prohibited (only takeout) and highly encouraging social distancing measures.

Confusion with the color code system prompted the ASG to utilize the Governor's Emergency Declaration (GED) on a monthly basis to analyze epidemiological data and provide the public with information on the COVID-19 policies as it applies to travel, essential services, and public gatherings.

Drive Through Vaccinations: In response to code red, on February 26th the Department of Health implemented its first Drive Through at The Tafuna Airport. Multiple drive through and pop up sites were held at strategic locations across the Territory to include the Fagatogo Marketplace and in villages where vaccination rates were lower and access was limited. Support from the Federal

government was instrumental in supplementing healthcare personnel at the LBJ hospital, vaccination and test to treat sites.

Home Quarantine Directive: Those who tested positive for COVID were directed to isolate along with close contact family for a total of 14 days. Enforcement of Home Isolation and Quarantine conducted by the Department of Public Safety and Office of Samoan Affairs. The Department of Education, in coordination with the Emergency Operation Center (EOC), Office of Samoan Affairs, and partners delivered mass care sustenance to families that were registered as self-quarantined through TALOFAPass. Most families ordered to isolate and quarantine were provided this meal service.

Healthcare Workforce: Support from Federal and private partners supplemented local response efforts and capabilities. Approximately sixty federal personnel came to American Samoa to support our local healthcare workers. Additionally, LBJ contracted a team of 28 travel nurses from NuWest (ICU respiratory therapist, ICU registered nurses, Medical/Surgical dialysis nurses, a biomedical technician, physicians, pharmacist, and other medical professionals) to provide additional LBJ hospital surge capacity.

TALOFAPASS: Beginning in June, Hawaiian air resumed its twice a week flights to pre-COVID flight schedules. On December 14, an additional third flight per week was added to meet increased travel demand during the holiday season. In November 2022, the Administration suspended the mandatory registration on TALOFAPASS and the vaccination mandate, and transitioned to the American Samoa Traveler Declarations portal as response efforts have moved into a COVID recovery phase. Travelers are no longer required to register with the portal as a pre-travel requirement. Rather, travelers are given the option to complete a health questionnaire online for expedited clearance upon arrival. The long term vision of the ASG is to digitize health, customs, and immigration clearances for expedited arrivals processes and to allow for continued health surveillance.

End of COVID-19 Governor’s Emergency Declaration

American Samoa’s COVID-19 response has been guided by science and data-driven recommendations from the medical community and multiple phases evolving over the past several years. As a result of the rigorous efforts of our healthcare workers, American Samoa’s pandemic response has saved thousands of lives. Out of a total of 8,264 COVID cumulative cases, 8,229 have recovered. American Samoa has fully vaccinated over 85% of the population and 91% of the population has at least one shot. As of Dec. 21, 2022, 6.7 million deaths have been recorded worldwide since China reported its first cases to the World Health Organization in December 2019. Thirty-four lives were lost in American Samoa following the Omicron outbreak in 2022.

On December 1, 2022, Lemanu-Talauega Administration called for an end to the COVID-19 Governor’s Emergency Declaration (GED). Residents and visitors in American Samoa are reminded to comply with the advisories published by the Department of Public Health. With coronavirus public health emergency declarations removed and majority of restrictions relating to the pandemic have been lifted, the COVID-19 Task Force agreed in its meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2022 to report to Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga that the Task Force will stand down in January 2023 as it deems its mission and work phasing into long-term recovery efforts. January 17, 2023 is the projected Task Force’s close out meeting date.

**A more detailed analysis on the AS COVID response “2022 COVID Task Force Operations Report” is forthcoming.*

Department of Health

The Department of Health is dedicated to both providing quality services and making health assistance available, usable and understandable for the people of American Samoa in creating a safer and healthier community. Our focus is concerning the promotion of physical and mental health; prevention of disease through outreaches, mentoring, education, and allocation of resources, providing affordable health care services not only in American Samoa but visitors from outside the local community.

Over the past year a wide range of initiatives have been advanced to optimize and improve the health and well-being of newcomers and residents in various areas such as cancer screening, population health, aging community, chronic disease management and mental health also non communicable diseases. Throughout the year the Department worked diligently to achieve the strategic goals in the areas of Quality and Safety, Improved Access and Increased Efficiency, Population Health and Demographics and the delivery of Health and Community Services.

The Department of Health and its community services are responsible for setting the overall strategic directions and priorities for the health and community services system throughout American Samoa and its people.

Public Health Accomplishments & Significant Projects

A key focus of the Department in 2021-2022 was to safeguard the territory from the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as maintain programs and services to ensure that residents across the island have timely access to appropriate programs and services that help individuals, families and communities achieve optimal health and well-being. The details below illustrate some of the key accomplishments achieved by each program/division in the past year, all of which contribute to the strategic direction of the American Samoa Government.

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Case Report: New/ Cumulative Counts				Date of Report December 12-18, 2022			
POSITIVE		Released from Isolation		ACTIVE CASES			
Past 7 days	Cumulative	Past 7 days	Cumulative				
6	8,272	1	8,265	7			
TREATED		HOSPITALIZATION				DEATH	
New	Cumulative	New		Current		New	Cumulative
		COVID	Other	COVID	Other		
1	3,232*	0	0	0	0	0	34
*Total therapeutic utilization at LBJ and DOH, includes Sotrovimab							

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

The Department of Health has been approved for a total of \$44 million in ARPA funds for Community Health Center and Behavioral Health infrastructure and workforce capacity to further

support COVID-19 mitigation efforts. Below is a breakdown of the Community Health Center ARPA funding proposed projects totaling \$20 million dollars and its Behavioral Health ARPA projects for a total of \$24 million dollars.

Community Health Center ARPA funds (\$20million)

1. Laboratory Conversion	\$2,705,829.00
2. Ofu and Olosega Clinic	\$2,375,565.00
3. COVID-19 Administration Building	\$2,563,094.00
4. Aunuu Community Health Clinic	\$2,415,048.00
5. Tau Community Health Clinic & Fitiuta Medical Services Expansion	\$2,415,048.00
6. Aunuu & Manu'a Medical Vessel	\$770,000.00
7. Tafuna Health Center Expansion	\$4,939,294.00
	\$20,000,000.00

Behavioral Health ARPA funds (\$24million)

1. Behavioral Health Services and Drug & Alcohol Facility	\$23,010,000
2. Veterinary Clinic	\$990,000
	\$24,000,000.00

COVID-19 Health Disparities Grant

1. Hired 3 IT Technicians
2. Setup DOH Helpdesk to support IT Infrastructure and programs
3. Hired Systems Administrator to build Website
4. Training for Doctors on Carevue EHR
5. Training for Registration and Reporting on Insight
6. Pay Cost-share subscription of \$144,000.00 to LBJ for EHR license

Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Project

- Mass Drug Administration MDA Round 3: October 2021 - January 2022
- In the midst of the pandemic, DOH teams were able to reach close to 17,000 of the eligible population
- Modified Impact Assessment Round 3: 8 Months post IDA: Preliminary Results
 - 306 Households; 595 participants
 - 50 fts+ (8.4%)
 - 30 (60%) participants > 20 years
 - 28 male (56%); 22 female (44%)
 - 2 mf+ (0.3%)

*The preliminary results show that the FTS percentage is high and above WHO recommended threshold however MF prevalence is just below what WHO recommends stopping MDA. This shows we are making great progress but there is still a sign of LF transmission in American Samoa.

Community Health Center (CHC)

The Leadership continues and sustains monthly meetings with the Community Health Center Governing Board as required by the HRSA Bureau of Health Care Services. The Health Center leadership also convenes for monthly calls on a quarterly basis.

Accomplishments for 2022 are as follows:

- Received funding totaling to \$725,5687 from HRSA-American Rescue Plan Act for Health Center Infrastructure support. This funding covers construction, expansion, alteration, renovation and other capital improvements and expands Health Care infrastructure. The project runs from September 15th, 2021 to September 14th, 2024.
- Received funding for the Health Center of \$3,064,625 for a period of 2 years to March 31, 2020. These funds are to support COVID-19 Vaccination Capacity, Response, Treatment, Maintaining and Increasing capacity, Recovery and Stabilization including minor alteration/renovation and any related activities under the Health Center.
- The Health Center continues in the final year of the 3 year cycle of the \$3,151,000 awarded as base funding each year. December 2021 CHC submitted another non competing continuation (NCC) application for the year 2022 for the operation of the Health Center Program.
- Federal Communications Commission funding awarded for \$187,297 to reimburse costs to support telehealth services in response to COVID-19 Pandemic.
- CHC completed the virtual annual Uniform Data System (UDS) training held on October 12th, 28th, & 26th, 2021. Up to 10 staff members registered and attended.
- Recruitment of four physicians, four lab workers, one dentist and one dietician are currently in the works.
- The 340-B discounted medication program under the Community Health Centers has afforded more than 150 Rheumatic Heart Disease patients to receive Bicillin medication for free. The CHC is an eligible entity under this federal discount program and since its enrollment in 2018, more than 50 new patients have established their care for RHD at the primary care clinic. Also, under the 340-B program are free Nicotine Replacement Products available to adults 18 years and older who are referred from the CHC primary clinic and interested in smoking cessation. This referral allows an individual patient from the CHC to enroll into the Tobacco Cessation Clinic when they undergo 8 weeks of counseling in combination with free Nicotine Replacement products.

ELC (Epidemiology and Lab) Accomplishments year 2022

- 136,694 COVID Tests conducted (ELC & CHC)
- New ELC Staff: Lab Manager, Medical Lab Scientist, Division Head, Operations Manager, Finance Manager, Personnel Specialist, Reopening Schools Coordinator
- All public schools elementary and secondary have been trained to administer COVID-19 testing. All schools and the majority of the private schools have test kits and assigned test administrators.
- Lab renovations 80% complete. HVAC system and PCR Room yet to be completed. New instruments and testing added this year, (ELC & CHC)
- DOH lab has hired two new microbiologists and three medical lab scientists
- New Data Modernization project on boarding to the US National Syndromic Surveillance Systems and has hired an IT Manager, a Systems Developer and IT Tech
- Two new Epi Techs have been onboarded to work on new lab information systems and Notifiable Diseases Surveillance

Nursing

In any health organization, the Nursing division is the backbone. The nursing workforce is key to tackling the problems our health care system faces. Without decisive action, nurses will practice under increased stress. As the healthcare system is strained by an aging population and broadened access to public health care, it will be nurses that feel the weight of patient responsibility on their shoulders.

The Department of Health's Nursing Division's Nurses and CNAs are being paid in accordance with the Reclassification Proposal approved by the Compliance Review Committee (CRC) in 2021.

- DOH Nursing Homebound Team were able to vaccinate elderly, caregiver and their family members at homes with COVID and Flu Shots.
- There are 3 homebound teams doing home visits for the elderlies (East, West & Central)
- 5 students graduated from the practical nursing program at American Samoa Community College (ASCC), and 3 of them already passed NCLEX.
- 2 RN students are awaiting to sit the NCLEX.
- To date, DOH has a total of 7 RN, 19 LPN & roughly 20-30 CNA's.
- Nursing division has also successfully done rotations to Manu'a during the start of COVID lockdown and also the threat of tremors and earthquakes.
- As present, DOH has 5 CNA's in the practical nursing program.
- DOH nursing assists ASCC nursing program to teach 2 courses in the spring semester.

Emergency Preparedness & Response Division (EPRD)

The DOH Emergency Preparedness & Response Programs are to strengthen territorial public health preparedness and response capabilities through a continuous cycle of planning, organizing, training, equipping, exercising, evaluating, and taking corrective action.

Information Management capability was improved greatly through enhanced interoperable systems and expanded communications resources. Information management is a critical component in all emergency preparedness because it allows leadership to receive critical information that is the basis for instantaneous better and informative decision making. Decisions that have an impact on the territory as a whole. ASDOH has its own frequency that allows them to operate separately from other government agencies.

ASDOH has acquired a vast amount of communications equipment that has allowed for Public Health Information Management and Incident Command Management to excel compared to 10 years ago. Currently DOH has the following comms resources: 6 communications repeaters: One on Ofu and 5 on Tutuila. 4 base radios; that are located in each community health centers (Tafuna, Leone, Tau and Ofu) 50 handheld radios that are supporting the COVID response operations for all quarantine sites, vaccination activities and resource management.

Immunization Program

The American Samoa Immunization Program operates under the umbrella of ASG Department of Health. The program is composed of many components which involves Hepatitis B Program, Surveillance Systems, Immunization Information Systems, our VFC Program, Adult Vaccination Program, etc. These components rely heavily on our collaboration with other departmental

programs, partnering governmental agencies, private and public sectors and especially the community. The Program supplies 95% of Federal dollars for Vaccines (VFC-Vaccine For Children) to protect our children from Vaccine Preventable Diseases. For the past year, the Immunization Program has been operating implementing goals and objectives of the program and the COVID 19 Pandemic Response Plan with the assistance of the Department, and guidance of the Director and Deputies. The immunization Program Accomplishments for 2022 are as follows:

- >95% WEBIZ Participation to include LBJ
- COVID FUNDS TO PROVIDE VACCINE RESPONSE INFRASTRUCTURE
- OPEN THE CALL CENTER FOR REMINDER/RECALL (COVID AND ROUTINE)
- TERRITORIAL MMR coverage >95%
- ESTABLISHED DOE & DOH IMMUNIZATION COLLABORATIVE

HIV/STD/TB/Viral Hepatitis Program

The HIV/STD program has accomplished its goals of retaining and keeping those living with HIV in care and medications have continued to be well stocked. American Samoa has not diagnosed a HIV case since 2001. Outreach and awareness campaigns continue to be managed. In addition the availability of the HIV test at DOH clinics and the LBJ laboratory continues to strengthen the of maintaining a HIV free American Samoa. STD clinics continue to open throughout the week with scheduled appointments on weekends. Collaboration with LBJ Family Planning and OBGYN clinic is an accomplishment every year. Ongoing STD screening and treatment including partner tracing is a daily task for the STD program. A successful partner tracing protocol is in place and has improved the treatment procedure of all STD positive case(s).

Given the shortage of Physicians and Nurses in American Samoa. The program is improvising and utilizing the physicians and nurses with the Department of Health to assist with ALL HIV/STD related patient issues and challenges. Other major accomplishments include, the Developed Communicable Disease Clinic in Fagaima. Services provided include free screening, treatment and education for: STD (chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, viral hepatitis), HIV, Tuberculosis (TB PPD skin test)and Blood pressure check (vitals).

BCCP-Breast & Cervical Cancer Program

Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (BCCEDP) facilitated its Women's Health Campaign kick-off in October 2022. They facilitated the following activities for women: Women's Health Fair, Women's Cricket Tournament and Manu'a Women's Screening. Women's Breast and Cervical screenings are available at 3 locations on a regular basis:

- Fagaalu Primary Clinic (Monday & Wednesday) 4-8PM
- Tafuna Prenatal Clinic (Tuesday & Thursday) 4-8PM
- Amouli Primary Clinic (Thursday) 8AM - 12PM

Comprehensive Cancer Control Program (CCCP)

The American Samoa Comprehensive Cancer Control is a CDC funded program that provides funding, guidance and technical assistance to various entities in the Cancer Community to design and implement strategic and impactful plans that prevent and control cancer. The CCCP has received funding for Cancer Prevention and Control Program DP 22-2022 funding cycle in the amount of \$643,500 (Breast and Cervical Cancer Program - \$393,870; Comprehensive Cancer Control Program 249,630).

Helping Babies Hear Program (Early Hearing Detection and Intervention)

Helping Babies Hear (HBH) is the territory's newborn hearing screening program. This program provides hearing screenings for all newborns prior to discharge from LBJ hospital as well as outpatient follow-up, for any newborn who does not pass their initial hearing screening. HBH also provides diagnostic audiological evaluations for newborns/toddlers in need of further testing if the follow up hearing screenings are not a pass. The diagnostic audiological evaluations conducted by an Audiologist will determine whether newborn/toddler has congenital or acquired hearing loss. HBH partners with the Part C program, Helping Hands, to provide further support through speech and language services. Accomplishments for year 2022 are as follows:

- Completed Parent Engagement Workshop: Training for parents who have newborns/children awaiting audiology evaluations or have received a hearing loss diagnosis.
- Completed Stakeholders Meeting: Co-hosted stakeholders with Part C Early Intervention Program. Stakeholders included: DOH leadership, DOH programs, LBJ, DHSS, Deaf adults, DOE Special Education, Deaf Community
- 100% referral rate to Part C Early Intervention Program for newborns with risk factors/failed hearing screenings

Maternal & Child Health Program/Rheumatic Heart Disease/Family to Family Program

The Rheumatic Heart Disease Control & Promotion Program was established less than 10 years ago to address the critical health concerns in relation to premature heart failure and life-long disability from Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) among the children population of the territory. This program continues to address the cardiovascular health needs of the territory in both children and the adult population through opportunities to access professional care from a visiting cardiology team, as well as maintaining preventive visits in community health centers that will provide support and monitoring of all RHD diagnosed clients. 2022 Program Achievements are as follows:

- Completed and submitted MCH Title V Program 2021 annual report/2023 Grant Application on August 12, 2022. Total amount 510K
- Submitted SSDI Grant Application for 2023 on August 24, 2022. Total amount 100K,
- Screened 2, 202 individuals for Rheumatic Heart Disease in Tutuila, Manu'a, and Aunuu.
- A rate of 12.7 per 1,000 were new cases (28 individuals) of RHD
- Initiation of overseas training on Echocardiography for local DOH personnel
- Approved for 2nd cycle (5 years) of funding for the Leo o Aiga F2F Center

MIECHV-Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program

The MIECHV/Aiga Manuia Program hopes to expand its home visiting services to target high risk populations of pregnant women, children 0 to 3 years of age and their families. Our vision is to compassionately support parents and caregivers who touch the lives of infants and toddlers, and hope to maximize the long-term impact in ensuring all infants and toddlers have a bright future. 2022 Program Achievements are as follows:

- Approved expanding the Aiga Manuia H.O.M.E Visit to Manu'a Island 2022
- Attended PEER-TO-PEER mentorship site visit with CNMI MIECHV H.O.M.E. Visit in August 2022.
- First team travel to conduct pre-assessment for the expansion of the Aiga Manuia H.O.M.E. VISIT in Manu'a in October 2022.
- Home Visitors completed training required for updating tools of Healthy Families America

Home visiting fidelity model.

- Continue home visiting services on a daily basis.
- After hours home visiting services for working mothers.
- 56 children and families have completed home visiting services and graduated from the MIECHV program FY 2022.
- Complete pre-assessment of Manu'a for MIECHV home visiting services.

Environmental Health Services Division

Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) or "sanitation" office is the enforcing agency for all issues and matters relating to sanitary conditions - which range from food to non-food, complaints and public nuisances in regards to foul odor, overflow of septic/sewer, piggery, accumulations of solid waste and scrap metals to name a few. Any matter that affects the health of the public, EHSD is the division that would handle the concerns and/or refer it to the proper agency. Accomplishments for year 2022 are as follows:

- 2 staff out of 5 inspectors are now HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) Certified (basic and advanced).
- EHSD staff met with the FDA Import Director in Los Angeles, CA on Nov. 3, 2022, in strengthening partnerships and collaboration amongst Territories.

Finance Management

Although the department has made tremendous progress in repairing past financial and grants mismanagement, there still remains needed repairing for existing grants. Improvement measures the department has taken include close collaboration with the Treasury and Budget Departments to maintain open communication on grants requirements and soliciting their direct support with processing all financial items.

Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center (LBJ)

As the only hospital in the territory, LBJ Tropical Medical Center serves approximately 50,000 people in the Territory of American Samoa. The mission of LBJ Tropical Medical Center is to provide patient focused, comprehensive, high-quality, cost-effective health care and related services to the people of American Samoa. In 1968, LBJTMC opened its doors to provide patient focused, high quality, comprehensive, proven best-practices driven, and cost-effective health care that addresses the health needs of the people.

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Authority continues to address challenges faced by the hospital's 50-year-old single-story facility for infrastructure maintenance, renovation, critical repairs, and the lack of qualified personnel to meet staffing needs, investing in a new medical facility and increasing our basic response capacity will provide American Samoa adequate response capabilities. Improving healthcare remains a priority for the Lemanu-Talauega Administration, and the ARPA allocation of \$300,000,000 to the American Samoa Government to design and build a new hospital in Tafuna; continue with upgrades and expansions of the existing LBJ Hospital is a monumental step forward in improved healthcare as promised to our people. These funds represent an important and much-needed development in what will be a lengthy and ongoing effort.

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center Accomplishment Report introduces a synopsis of various medical, clinical services, support, administrative and the essential purpose of the organization. This report highlights selected work and accomplishments of the healthcare professionals connected to the various programs and services, including accomplishments, challenges, goals, and opportunities.

Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Authority reports the following for year 2022:

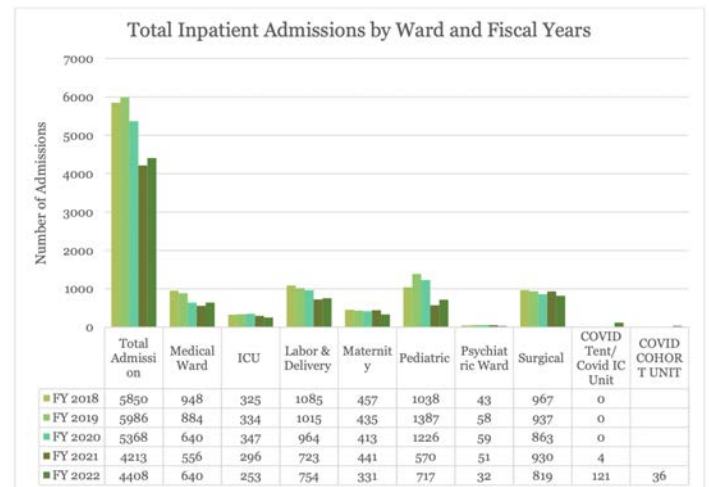
HOSPITAL UTILIZATION DATA

OVERALL HOSPITAL UTILIZATION for FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022

Total Discharges:	4,403
Average Charge per Discharge:	\$1,440.00
Total Patient Days of Care to Patients Discharged:	28,666 Days
Average Length of Stay (days):	6.5 Days

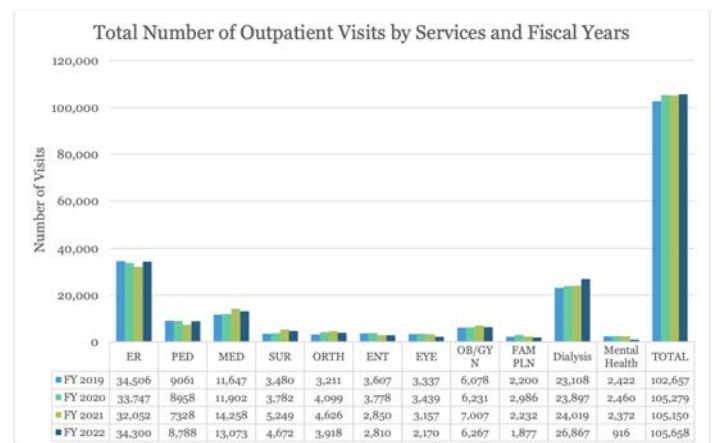
IN-PATIENT UTILIZATION FY 2021-2022

Total Admissions:	4,408
ICU	253
Medical Ward	640
Labor & Delivery	754
Maternity	331
Pediatrics	717
Psychiatric	32
Surgical	809
COVID Tent / COVID IC Unit	121
COVID Cohort Unit	36



OUTPATIENT UTILIZATION FY 2021-2022

Total Out-Patient Visits by Services:	114,754
Emergency Room:	34,300
Pediatric Clinic:	8,788
Medical Clinic:	13,073
Surgical Clinic:	4,672
Orthopedic Clinic:	3,918
ENT Clinic:	2,810
EYE Clinic:	2,170
OB/Gyn Clinic:	7,007
Dental Clinic:	9,096
Family Planning:	1,877
Renal Dialysis:	26,867
Mental Health:	916



Medical Physician Missions

In 2022, LBJTMC welcomed (4) LDS Missionary Physicians and their spouses who have various specialties arrived on our shores to serve their faith-based ministry, provide medical services for our community, and provide professional development/training for employees of LBJ Tropical Medical Center. The LDS Physicians are as follows:

- Dr. James Gebhard (Orthopedic Surgeon) and his wife Sister Helen Gebhard (Child Development Specialist)
- Dr. Audrey Tarr (Gynecologist Specialist) and Elder David Tarr (Engineer)
- Dr. Melvin Eric Carter (Cardiologist) and his wife Sister Allison Carter (RN, PA-C)
- Dr. Harold Walker (Interventional Radiologist) and wife Sister Kellie Walker

Medical Executive Committee (MEC) Officers- 2022-2024

The medical staff consists of physicians and providers who represent various specialties that provide medical treatment for patients. The newly elected officers will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience:

New Medical Staffing

LBJTMC has on-going efforts for recruitment, retention and professional development to provide services. Aside from the LDS Mission physicians, LBJ has on boarded the following new hires in 2022:

- Anesthesia (1 doctor)
- Emergency Medicine (5 doctors)
- Internal Medicine (2 doctors)
- OB/Gyn (1 doctor)
- Pathologist (1 doctor)
- Pediatric (1 doctor)
- Radiologist (1 doctor)
- General Surgeon (1 doctor)

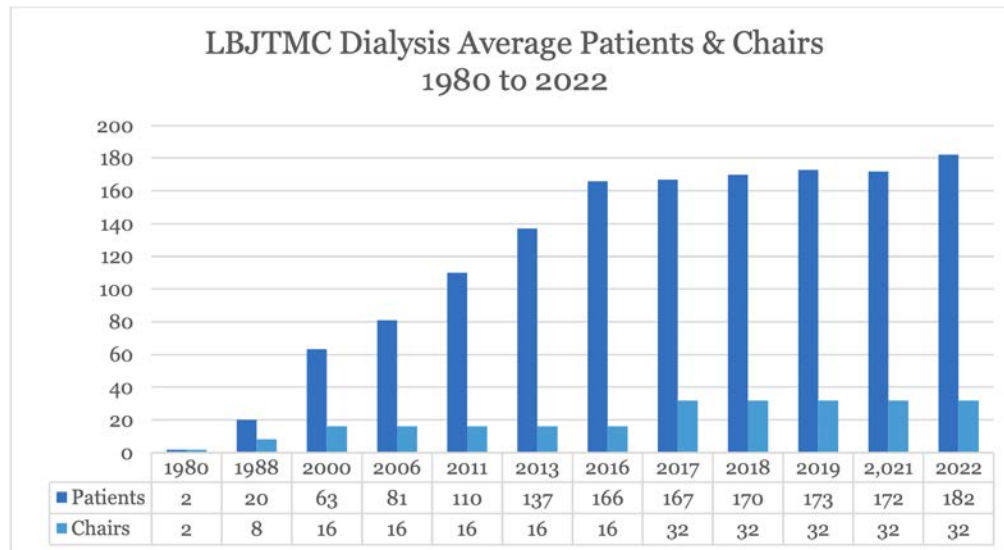
Pharmacy 2022

- Pharmacy has been an active member of the LBJ vaccine task force and has been partnering with DOH in storing, delivering and vaccinating staff and the public. The pharmacist's role as a vaccine educator enhances patient adherence in preventing COVID-19. We have successfully vaccinated 98% of LBJ's employees over the past year.
- The LBJ-Pharmacist team has been instrumental in the development of the COVID-19 Treatment protocols for LBJ. Pharmacy is also responsible for accurate inventory control of all COVID therapeutics received from the ASPR (Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response) partners and for proper reporting to various agencies. The pharmacy has also been requested recently to assist in creating treatment protocols for other communicable diseases such as Monkeypox.
- The pharmacy embarked on a continuing education project for some of their non-certified pharmacy technicians. They have successfully enrolled 2 of their pharmacy technicians who are actively engaged in the program. Once completed, they will sit the National Board Exam for Technician Certification. They also have selected 5 pharmacy technicians who will be participating alongside 2 pharmacists for the IV-admixture training. This project has been in the works for the past few years to meet the CMS-Condition of Participation for pharmacy in-patient processes. This project is tied into an IV-room project that is

awaiting final installation. Once completed, the pharmacy will be able to furnish the hospital units with premixed IV medications which will be made under sterile conditions.

ESRD – End Stage Renal Disease (DIALYSIS)

The inception of the Dialysis Unit at LBJTMC began in 1980 with 2 dialysis patients and 2 chairs. Since 1980, the ESRD population has seen a steady growth of patients and the need for improved prevention measures, dialysis chairs, qualified workforce and increase of pharmaceuticals. Despite the staffing shortage of physicians, nurses and support staff, ESRD Dialysis Unit has 32 Dialysis chairs that serve 182 patients throughout the year. CKD aims to decrease the number of Dialysis patients.



Laboratory

- On April 26, 2022, the Lab was granted Certificate of Compliance for 2 more years
- LBJTMC currently has (13) certified American Medical Technologist (AMT) Phlebotomy Technician. Intent to certify 17 more phlebotomists.
- Laboratory Medical Technologist (MT) Chemistry Section successfully passed the certifying examination for Medical Technologist by the American Medical Technologists (AMT).
- Two staff (1 Phlebotomist, 1 Laboratory Technician MLT) have successfully completed modules 1 & 2 for the Pacific Pathology Training Center (PPTC) Program.
- US equivalency pending to challenge MLT exam

HEMATOLOGY STAGO COMPACT

Installation of the new coagulation machine – STAGO Compact Max Validation

- Improve turnaround time
- More test menu offered with the STAGO
- Successfully took over the BLOOD GAS from Respiratory
- Medical Technologists (MT) successfully passed all Arterial Blood Gas (ABG) from College of American Pathologists (CAP) surveys

MICROBIOLOGY TESTING CAPABILITY

Now test offers Chlamydia Trachomatis and Neisseria Gonorrhoea Testing on the GenExpert

BLOOD BANK CAPABILITY**ESTABLISH MASSIVE BLOOD TRANSFUSION PROTOCOL(MBTP)**

- Improved service to the operating room as well as the wards
- Improved our Donor Screen process

SEROLOGY/IMMUNOLOGY CAPABILITY

Additional services for Test Menu:

- Progesterone
- CA-19-9
- Testosterone
- Estradiol

MORGUE

- Morgue staff obtained COVID Certification for embalming.
- Turn the chapel into Mortuary
- Improved the viewing area for families
- Visitation schedule and process have been upgraded
- Professional development opportunity for staff (pending)

Rehabilitation (Physical Therapy)

- Telehealth certification courses completed for Rehab Management
- Staff PT's are currently working on telehealth certification

Dietary

- Hiring of the two (2) dietitians is in progress
- Completed the bidding process for a new kitchen and dining facility.
- Successfully launched the short order menu for breakfast and lunch during the
- The Mobile Cart project was launched to support patients while waiting for their appointments.
- Another ongoing project that is in progress is the personal menu for inpatients. The expected date of completion is the end of the first quarter of 2023.

Nursing and Patient Care

Despite the nursing shortage, the Nursing Department continues to provide efficient and effective care for all patients and patrons at LBJTMC. The goal is to recruit and invest in ongoing professional development.

- Nurse Recruitment Initiative from Fiji
 - Selected 23 candidates who have met the criteria (target goal was 20)
- CPR classes – weekly certification conducted on-campus
- Neonatal Resuscitation Certification (NRP)
 - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
 - Required for all in the labor unit, maternity and nurseries
 - 6 licensed nurses have completed the certification
 - 19 licensed nurses from OB/Pedi will complete the certification
 - 5 physicians will complete the certification
- Wound Care Training Certification

- Online – 10 nurses have completed the certification training
- 20 nurses are currently engaged in the training
- Restraints / Seclusion Certification
 - In-service training with skill validation can be conducted locally through new nurse education Rosamma Finney, RN

Infrastructure and Facilities

LBJTMC received funding assistance to move forward with needed projects for expansion of the hospital and services. Facilities has accomplished the following in 2022:

- Installed and commissioned new Rotoclave
- Installed 2 new boilers
- Installed new Oxygen manifold
- Installed new NO2 manifold
- Installed/commissioned 2 new Commercial Washing machines
- Awarded \$50 million in ARPA funding to improve the facility
- Completion of the Temporary Kitchen Project



Installed Oxygen Manifold



NO2 Manifold



Temporary Kitchen Project: A container was manufactured with required specifications



Newly installed and commissioned Rotoclave

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- COVID-19 Negative Pressure ICU Unit
- New Finance Building
- New Engineering and Medical Supply Building
- New Storage Structure 40ft x 60ft
- Installation of one New Boiler
- Installation of one New Chiller
- Purchase MRI Unit

ON GOING PROJECTS:

- ARPA Projects
- OR/Labor Delivery Phase II
- Renovation of new MRI space
- Design for Doctors Housing (location – Public Health)
- New Hospital Facility in Tafuna
- Pharmacy Clean Room Project

Human Resources Highlights

Continuous recruitment efforts for physicians, nurses, ancillary and specialized support staff

- Working with the SDHR consultants to formulate a new pay schedule for the hospital
- Instrumental with the NuWest Staffing activity for the COVID-19 response
- Maximize scopes and responsibilities to meet the mandates and Conditions of Participation for CMS HR
- Inaugural Hospital Banquet Dinner – “Celebrating You”

Office of Compliance and Regulatory

- CMS Survey Team (Healthcare Management Solutions, LLC (HMS) was on site on August 23-26, 2022 for a Revisit of the 2019 Plans of Correction submitted for the November 2019 CMS full survey. No higher condition level deficiencies reported during the exit interview as the findings were mainly Standard Level Deficiencies. Still awaiting a response/report from CMS on the visit.
- The HMS Survey Team was also on site at the Dialysis Unit on August 31, 2022 for Medicare Recertification & Complaint Survey. A report was received on September 29, 2022 and a Plan of Correction (POC) with credible evidence was submitted on October 7, 2022.

Medical Physician - Clinician Scholarship funded by the Governor's Office:

The Lemanu-Talauenga Administration is committed to investing in our local talent so that they may eventually give back to our community. LBJTMC is the liaison for this Governor's Office funded project. There are seven (7) student scholars enrolled at the College of Medicine at FNU for the 2022 school year; a six (6) year medical physician program. There are two (2) pharmacy scholars' students attending the U.S. Pharmacology schools.

Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM) Telehealth Training Program

- Awarded USDA – Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant - (\$677,675.00) to purchase needed equipment for the Maternal Fetal Medicine Telehealth services
- Awarded Department of Interior TAP Award (\$150,000.00) for needed training and consulting from specialized physicians and team members to implement the MFM Telehealth Program
- Innovative solution to increase access to basic and subspecialty prenatal care for pregnant women through Telehealth medicine

Emergency Maintenance & Responder Training Project (2022) Cares Act Extension:

Awarded Department of Interior – CARES Act Award - \$550,000.00 to purchase new emergency vehicles, and provide maintenance, responder, and support staff training

Maintenance and Life Safety Training Project - 2022

Awarded Department of Interior TAP funds (\$60,000.00) for the Life Safety Codes Training. This project will address the need for the health care facility to meet the requirements of CMS Conditions of Participation by enhancing the Safety Office program for the hospital.

Property Management – Facilities & Engineering Support Staff Training – 2022

Awarded DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$150,000.00) for the Property management - Facilities, Engineering & Support Staff Training project. This project will address the need for health care facility to meet the requirements of CMS Conditions of Participation by enhancing the Safety Office program for the hospital

Human Resources Health management Software & Support Staff Training

Awarded Department of Interior TAP Funds (\$130,000.00). HR has secured consulting services of SDHR. Ongoing - training to resume as per performance period. The healthcare industry is one of the largest employers in the United States. The role of the HR professional in the healthcare industry is critical to patient outcomes. The HR Division must make sure all of the departments, divisions and workforce are, at minimum, credentialed, qualified and competent to perform scopes and responsibilities for each respective service

Nurses and Healthcare Support Staff Training

Awarded DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$163,847.00) to support U.S. nursing license training for identified employed nurses and identified support staff. Refresher course for licensing exam. To assist with the nursing shortage and professional development for support staff.

U.S. Pharmacy Technician Certification Training

LBJ pharmacy technicians are scheduled to sit the National Certification test. Awarded DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$60,000.00) to build local workforce capacity and to meet the conditions of participation for CMS.

Future pharmacy projects: Coordination with U.S. Tripler Army Medical Center for in-patient

Per Diem Nursing and Support Staff Program Training

Awarded DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$249,600.00)- This project supports the well-fare, mental and physical health of current nurses and support staff working at LBJ Tropical Medical Center. By hiring more Per Diem Nurses/Support Staff – it will improve the quality of patient care by alleviating the burden of overworked staff and burned-out staff. It will also assuage (short term solution) the financial burden of the hospital with overtime compensation. Ongoing efforts for workforce capacity building and retention for local licensed nurses are priority.

Health Information Technology (HIT) Training:

Funding Source(s): DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$100,000.00). This project uses evidence-based practices to build financial accountability, improve the revenue cycle, enhance financial management in healthcare initiatives, develop workforce and increase the Information Systems performance.

Radiology and Laboratory Workforce Training:

Training will address the local shortage of U.S. credentialed and qualified pool of workforce employed at the hospital. Training will assist both Radiology and Laboratory technicians improve practices of quality of patient care, patient safety and increase accountability of the workforce.

Funding Source(s): DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$200,000.00)

Status Update: Will resume in 2022 due to staffing shortage brought on from the pandemic. Radiology has commenced in online UltraSound training and Laboratory seeks entry into Fiji National University (FNU) for selected technicians to further advanced and specialized training.

Infection Prevention Training

Training for infection prevention program for the hospital. This will use proven evidence-based strategies so the hospital can meet the Conditions of Participation for CMS, improve quality of patient care, and build local capacity for professional training.

Funding Source(s): DOI-OIA TAP Funding (\$120,000.00) **Status Update:** Ongoing

Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technician (CCHT) Training: Dialysis Center-End Stage Renal Disease

In February 2019, seven Patient Care Technicians sat the Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC) exam on island. These technicians were trained in June 2018 with the theory requirements at the Fresenius training in Hilo, HI. Their practical requirements were provided here at LBJ. Five PCTs successfully passed the certification and are now Certified Clinical Hemodialysis Technicians (CCHT). Due to the prevalence of the stable growth in Non-Communicable Diseases, Diabetes and ESRD patients, there is a need to build and train the workforce that provides these specific services.

Funding Source: DOI-OIA Tap Funding (\$493,581.00) **Status Update:** Ongoing

Cardiopulmonary Respiratory Therapy Training:

One employee completed the online respiratory care therapy program with Independence University. This is the only CoARC, AARC accredited online respiratory care program. Training to ensure that individuals providing respiratory care are trained and competent to not only perform the skills but to also understand the rationale for providing treatment and to meet the Conditions

of Participation for Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for LBJ Tropical Medical Center.

Funding Source(s): LBJ Tropical Medical Center – approx. \$33,000.00 DOI-OIA TAP - \$140,000.00 **Status Update:** Will need to re-assess and continue during training opportunities during the performance period of TAP.

The various programs from the major departments elaborated in detail through the activities, projects of this report will continue to be reviewed for relevance and effectiveness for performance of the hospital and services provided by LBJTMC. These programs hope to lead towards a mechanism for informed decision making, and response that is able to effectively support a patient-centered, and resilient hospital.

Department of Search and Rescue

Governor Lemanu signed Executive Order 005-2022 on June 15, 2022, to establish the American Samoa Search and Rescue Agency as an independent agency within the Executive Branch. The Executive Order remained in effect until PL 37-16 established the Search and Rescue Department recognizing the specialized nature of these functions to promote improved safety of our people (GL00979). The Fire Bureau, Marine Patrol (previously under Department of Public Safety) and Emergency Medical Services (previously under LBJ Tropical Medical Center) are now under the authority of the newly established Department.

EMS successfully graduated five personnel from the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) Course.

AEMT's are the third level in the National EMS Certification process. The levels from entry level to advanced are Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) and Paramedics. The primary focus of the Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is to provide basic and limited advanced emergency medical care and transportation for critical and emergent patients who access the emergency medical system. This individual possesses the basic knowledge and skills necessary to provide patient care and transportation. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians function as part of a comprehensive EMS response, under medical oversight. Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians perform interventions with the basic and advanced equipment typically found on an ambulance. The Advanced Emergency Medical Technician is a link from the scene to the emergency health care system.

EMS received two new Ambulance units

These two new units will add to the current fleet and allow EMS to respond quicker and provide an increased level of service to the people of American Samoa.



Fire Trucks (Emergency Response Vehicles)

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) worked in close collaboration with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to secure two brand new 2021 Dodge Ram 5500 Rebel ATX Brush Trucks. Both customized fire trucks were built for the narrow roads and terrain here in American Samoa. These trucks were received in July to the Search & Rescue Office (SRO) for immediate use.



Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between American Samoa and the Independent State of Samoa during the “Atoa o Samoa” bilateral talks. This allows coordination for joint Search and Rescue, border patrol, drug enforcement and intelligence sharing. The MOA also allows the Territory to conduct joint training exercises to strengthen border security for both the Territory and Independent State of Samoa.

American Samoa Medicaid State Agency

Medicaid Program Services

After nearly two years of the COVID lockdown in American Samoa, Medicaid reinstated its Off-Island Medical Referral (OMR) program for **non-Urgent** medical referrals in 2021.

Off Island Medical Referrals (10/2021 - 09/30/2022)	
Destination	Number of Referrals
to US	40
to NZ	51

MedEvac Transportation (10/2021 – 09/2022)		
Destination	Number of flights	Costs (in USD)
to US	6	605,750.00
to NZ	17	1,051,578.00
Total	23	1,657,328.00

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) issues \$89 million in Annual Medicaid Federal Funding; Local Match is \$3 million.

New Providers in the State of Hawaii

- Medicaid opened new opportunities for non-urgent referrals in Hawaii for the first time in more than 20 years. It enrolled two clinics for general practitioner services (Kalihi Palama and Ekahi/Kuakini Medical Center to do referrals to specialty care.
- Medicaid successfully contracted with two budget hotels in Hawaii to provide accommodations for referral patients.
- Medicaid enrolled Orthopedics Associates of Hawaii for orthopedic services.
- Medicaid is nearly completing a contract with Advent Castle Hospital in Kailua better to serve referral patients at one comprehensive hospital facility.
- Medicaid is nearly completing a contract with Hawaiian Airlines to provide air transportation services for Medicaid referral patients.

New Vision Services

- CMS approved the Prescription Eyeglasses State Plan Amendment (SPA) in May 2022. The program was rolled out to the public in September, starting with *all* children under 21 (including non-US. Nationals who legally reside in American Samoa as their primary residence and permanent resident.) In October 2022, the program was opened to adults – U.S. Citizens, U.S. Nationals, and U.S. Permanent Residents (Green card holders).
- The My Vision Eye Care Center is the primary provider of the Vision Program services. Since the program launched, Medicaid has registered the following numbers.

Enrollment Status	Number of Registrations
Approved	650
Denied	174
Final Approval Pending	215
Incomplete	158
Pending	335
Totals (5 groups)	1532

*Of the 1,537 registrations, 32%, or 491, are lawful or AS Permanent residents.

Hawaii Satellite Office

- A Medicaid satellite office has been opened at the ASG Hawaii Office location. This office currently has one Medicaid HI Patient Navigator to help deliver logistics and administrative support to Medicaid referral patients in Hawaii.

Expanded Coverage for American Samoa Permanent Residents

Medicaid continues to explore innovative solutions to expand needed medical services for our people. This has become an invaluable and necessary lifeline for our people. In FY2022, our government referred 91 patients to the OMR program—MedEvacs, 17 to NZ, 6 to HI, and the US. This year we began services for vision providing eyeglasses to our children and adults; we began to reinstate non-emergency access to medical referrals in the State of Hawaii by signing contracts with a new hospital—Advent Castle, a new orthopedic provider, budget hotels, and Hawaiian Airlines. With federal Medicaid funding of \$89 million, we need approximately \$35-40 million in the local match to more effectively expand Medicaid services to develop a more comprehensive healthcare delivery system for our people. Collectively as a government, if we want to expand Medicaid services to provide coverage for diseases like cancer and autoimmune diseases, we must find a new source of local revenues to fund the Medicaid local match. But we must also take the lead to build the capacity of our medical facilities and personnel to reduce our reliance on off-island medical referrals.

STATE OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration recognizes the need to rebuild and strengthen our critical infrastructure for a sustainable economic future, including healthcare, transportation, information communication, and technology. The Administration continues to prioritize the numerous public works improvement projects from road maintenance and development, education and airport facilities.

The Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works (DPW) strives to maintain the same course of action from the previous year regarding numerous new and ongoing infrastructure projects. DPW continues to provide maintenance work, and emergency repairs especially on drainage and shoreline work due to the effect of climate change on our island. Furthermore, work on upgrading existing government structures as well as developing new projects with innovative ideas that will project the new face of the government with modern infrastructure and developments within the coming years. The Administration continues to prioritize the upgrade of school facilities to support student learning and achievement.

As a means to further enhance capital improvements, Public Works has been successful with the submissions of several applications for federal funding, namely:

Grant Awards

MAP & TAP Projects Total Award: \$560,000.00

- ASG Gas Station Rehabilitation
 - Tank Restoration- Clean/Repaint/Repair Building
 - Gas Dispenser Installation- Install new dispensers
- DPW Heavy Equipment Storage Facility
 - Construction of storage facility to store all Heavy Equipment i.e. Backhoes, Excavator, Grader, Dump-truck, Loader.
- DPW Training
 - Workforce Development Program

Homeland Security Grant Program Total Award: \$200,000.00

- DPW Physical Security
 - Construction of new fence
 - Installation of new cameras

ARPA Total Award: \$700,000.00

- New Vacuum Truck
- Office cubicles (COVID-19 Prevention)

CIP \$1,500,000.00

- DPW Heavy Equipment (2 new Backhoes, 1 New Excavator)

Grant Proposals Submitted

US Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities Program (RCP)

- Route 003-Route 004 Road Reconstruction \$5,000,000.00

Homeland Security Grant Program \$75,000.00

- Cyber Security

MAP & TAP

- DPW Flatbed and Forklift \$150,000.00
- DPW Street Lamp Poles \$100,000.00
- DPW Land Survey Equipment Upgrade and Training \$100,000.00
- DPW Bucket Truck \$200,000.00

Critical infrastructure improvement projects funded through the various programs awarded by both the federal government and local funds continue to move forward despite the worldwide shortage of materials and shipping delays. The Department of Public Works has successfully completed many federally and locally funded projects and has begun work on a significant number of others.

The following pages provide a listing of completed and ongoing projects for year 2022.

EDUCATION COMPLETED PROJECTS





ECE BUILDING TAFUNA



FIRST COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER

EDUCATION ON GOING PROJECTS



PAVAIAI 1ST 2 STORY BUILDING



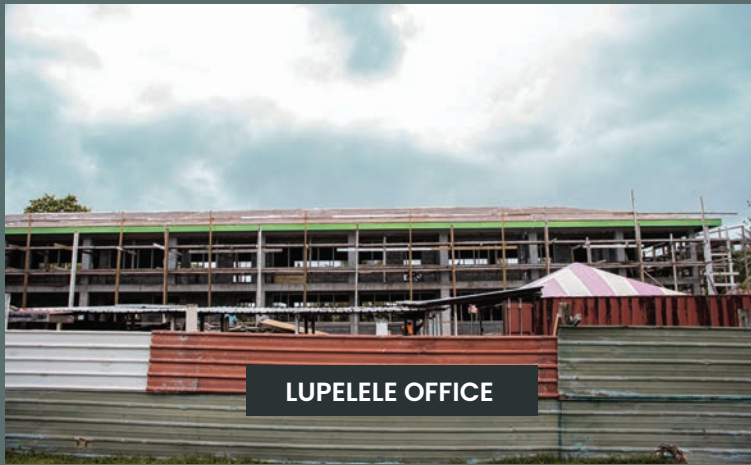
PAVAIAI 2ND 2 STORY BUILDING



ASCC REMOTE CLASS BUILDING



LUPELELE CAFETERIA



LUPELELE OFFICE



COLEMAN 1ST 2 STORY BUILDING



COLEMAN 2ND 2 STORY BUILDING



MIDKIFF 1ST 2 STORY BUILDING



MIDKIFF 2ND 2 STORY BUILDING



LAULII ES KITCHEN/ CAFETERIA IMPROVEMENT



LAULII 2 STORY BUILDING



AOA 2 STORY BUILDING



VATIA 2 STORY BUILDING



FAGAITUA 2ND 2 STORY BUILDING

COMPLETED ROAD PROJECTS



AMANAVE TO POLOA ROAD



POLOA TO FAGAMALO ROAD



MALAELOA ROAD



FAGAIMA/MALAEIMI ROAD



VAITOGI LOOP ROAD



GOLF COURSE PAVEMENT PARKING LOT



VATIA ROAD



GOVERNOR'S ACCESS ROAD



COST U LESS ROAD



KANANAFU ROAD



ILI'ILI BACK ROAD



FOGAGOGO ACCESS ROAD



VAITOGI ACCESS ROAD



MAPUSAGA FOU ACCESS ROAD



ON-GOING ROAD PROJECTS



NAPA ROAD



PETESA ROAD



NU'UULI ACCESS ROAD



VAILOA ACCESS ROAD



FAGAIMA ACCESS ROAD

OTHER PROJECTS



NU'UULI ROAD DRAINAGE



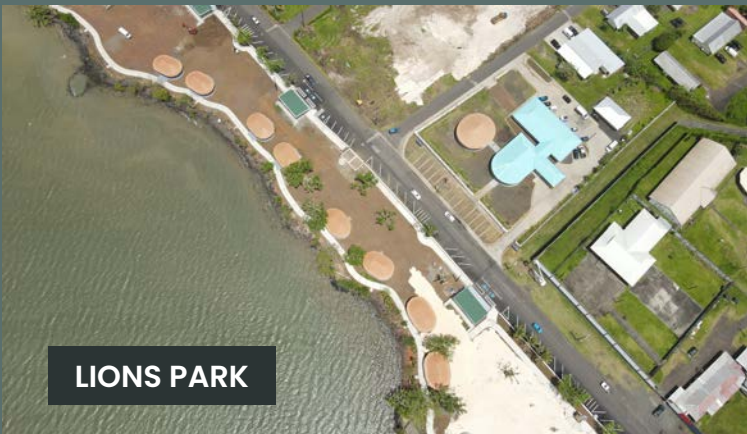
FONO BUILDING



TURTLE AND SHARK LOOKOUT



FAGAALU PARK



LIONS PARK



PORT BUILDING DEMOLITION

Manu’a Development

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration remains committed to serving the people of Manu’a by improving government services and investing in critical infrastructure projects. These projects are necessary and crucial to improving access to government services and the quality of life for our Manu’a residents. Government presence on the Manu’a Islands has continued to expand. The following is a list of projects, developments and accomplishments of the Administration in Manu’a during the year 2022:

Inter-Island Ferry Service

The Administration has continued to invest in the expansion of and building the efficiency of Manu'a’s air and surface transportation infrastructure. These past two years saw an increase in reliable and frequent surface travel between Pago Pago and Manu’a.

MV Manu’atele – Services to Manu’a

2020: Manuatele sailed 3 times to Manu’a (Voyages 67 to 69)

2021: Manuatele sailed 57 times to Manu’a (Voyages 70 to 126)

2022: Manuatele sailed 48 times to Manu’a (Voyages 127 to 174)

MANU'ATELE

SAILING SCHEDULE
SAILING TIME - APPROXIMATELY 6 HOURS

JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2022

DEPARTS PAGO	TIME	REPARTS MANU'A	TIME	TYPE
1. Wednesday, July 6	10 P.M.	Friday, July 8	TBD	FERRY
2. Wednesday, July 13	10 P.M.	Saturday, July 16	TBD	FERRY
3. Wednesday, July 20	10 P.M.	Friday, July 22	TBD	FERRY
4. Wednesday, July 27	10 P.M.	Friday, July 29	TBD	FERRY
5. Wednesday, August 3	10 P.M.	Friday, August 5	TBD	FERRY
6. Week of August 27	MAINTENANCE			
7. Wednesday, August 24	10 P.M.	Friday, August 26	TBD	FERRY
8. Wednesday, August 24	10 P.M.	Friday, August 26	TBD	FERRY
9. Thursday, August 24	10 P.M.	Friday, August 26	TBD	FERRY
10. Wednesday, August 24	10 P.M.	Friday, August 26	TBD	FERRY
11. Wednesday, September 14	10 P.M.	Friday, September 16	TBD	FERRY
12. Wednesday, September 21	10 P.M.	Friday, September 23	TBD	FERRY
13. Wednesday, September 28	10 P.M.	Friday, September 30	TBD	FERRY
14. Wednesday, September 28	10 P.M.	Friday, September 30	TBD	FERRY

(808) 633-4300 | portinfo@mail.gum | american Samoa port authority
The vessel's health is in the hands of the people.

Development Bank Service to the Manu’a Islands

DBAS continues to serve the Manu’a islands by providing the same services available in Tutuila for the Manu’a islands. Out of the 61 loans for fishermen and farmers under the Special Project Commercial Loans for farmers and fishermen, 20 of the funded loans are from the Manu’a islands.

DHSS Improvements to Service Delivery for Manu’a

DHSS achieved the following improvements to better serve the people in the Manu’a Islands: Hired two new staff members under the Children and Family Services Division (CFSD) to provide CFSD services and support in their offices in Ofu and Fitiuta. Purchased two brand new 2022 four-door Toyota Tacoma pickup trucks for the offices in Ofu and Fitiuta. The two vehicles just arrived on island and will be transported to Manu’a after they have cleared Customs and registered with the Office of Motor Vehicles and the Office of Property Management. DHSS has also relocated their Fitiuta Office from behind the Fitiuta airport to the main road next to the CCCAS church and across from the Fitiuta Elementary School for better access.

MANU'A PROJECTS



FALEASAO PORT TERMINAL BUILDING



**MANU'A CONSOLIDATED ELEMENTARY
NEW SCHOOL BUILDING**



**TA'U MANU'A SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM
PRE-FAB METAL BUILDING**



**OFU RUNWAY REHABILITATION
PROJECT**



**TA'U ISLAND EMERGENCY
ESCAPE ROUTES**



MANU'A SEAWALL



ECE SCHOOL RENOVATION



FITIUTA AIRPORT TERMINAL RENOVATION



FITIUTA AIRPORT NEW PASSENGER FACILITY

Department of Port Administration

The Department of Port Administration (DPA) manages six (6) seaports and three (3) airports throughout the territory. These infrastructures are critical in that they serve as the only gateways to the island, and therefore, our people. Clothing, food, materials, fuel, equipment, family members, experts, supplies, etc. all enter the island by no other way, but via the seaports and airports. Over the past year, DPA worked diligently to ensure that these facilities continue to serve the community and especially the people of American Samoa.

During the past year, DPA sought, more aggressively, federal funding to enhance capital improvement and were successful in obtaining funding for the following projects:

Seaport Projects		
Project	Amount	Funding
Container Yard Destruction	\$5 million	Federal- ARPA
Container Yard Reconstruction	\$750,000	Federal- MARAD
New ASG Port Buildings	\$15 million	Federal- ARPA
Landing Crafts & Tugboats	\$5 million	Federal- ARPA
Port Lights Upgrade	\$107,000	Federal- MARAD
Fenders Replacement	\$231,000	Federal- MARAD
Port PA & Voice Alarm System	\$123,000	Federal- DOI OIA
Vessel Fleet Maintenance & Staff Maintenance Training	\$199,000	Federal- DOI OIA
Marine Debris Removal	Pending Outcome of Grant Proposal Submission	Federal- NOAA BIL
Manu'a Forklifts	\$90,000	Federal- MARAD
Ofu Harbor	\$8, 966.80	Federal- FEMA Reimbursement Claim from King Tides Damages
Tau Floating Dock Replacement	\$41, 078.60	Federal- FEMA Reimbursement Claim from King Tides Damages

Aunu'u Wharf Reconstruction Project	\$2.6 million	Federal- MARDAD PIDP
Aunu'u Wharf Reconstruction Project	\$514, 769.78	Federal- FEMA Reimbursement Claim from King Tides Damages
Aunu'u Rock Revetment Repairs	\$500,000 - \$1.5 million	Federal - USACE
Auasi Wharf Road & Dock Repairs	\$65,783.93	Federal – FEMA Reimbursement Claim from King Tides Damages
Airport Projects		
Runway 5-23	\$23 million	Federal- FAA AIP
Airport Courtyard	\$163,000	American Samoa Department of Commerce
ARFF Foam Equipment Upgrade	\$400,000	Federal- FAA AIP
Airport (ARFF) PA & Voice Alarm System	\$96,000	Federal- DOI OIA
Pago Pago International Airport Terminal Building Reconstruction	\$15 million	Federal- ARPA
Pago Pago International Airport VIP Lounge	\$800,000	Governor's Special Program
Pago Pago International Airport Industrial Park Lot Development	\$275,000	Local
Pago Pago International Airport Damage Repairs	\$1.3 million	Federal- FEMA Reimbursement Claim from King Tides Damages
Fitiuta Airport Lighting Upgrade	\$1.8 million	Federal- FAA AIP
Ofu Terminal Building Renovations	\$100,000	Local
Airport Restoration and Hazard Mitigation	Pending outcome of grant proposal submission	Federal- DOI OIA

Ongoing Project from Previous Years		
Apron Rehabilitation Stages 2 to 6	\$22 million	Federal- FAA AIP
New Educational Center	\$800,000	Governor's Special Programs
Ofu Runway Construction	\$5 million	FAA AIP
Faleasao New Terminal Building	\$300,000	Local- Construction by DPW

Port of Pago Pago Revenue
● FY 2021: \$3,866,172.32
● FY 2022: \$4,306,137.30

Pago Pago International Airport Revenue
● FY 2021: \$967,357.45
● FY 2022: \$1,380,034

Passenger Facility Charge Revenue
● FY 2021: 11,338.93
● FY 2022: \$47,951.21

Air and Sea Carrier Schedules

With coronavirus public health emergency declarations removed and majority of restrictions relating to the pandemic have been lifted, the review and approval for air and ocean carriers coming into the territory, especially requests for added charters is to be returned to Port Administration. During the period of the COVID public health emergency declarations, the authority for approving air and sea carrier entries was placed with the Task Force with final approval from the Governor's Authorized Representative.

American Samoa Shipyard Authority

The government owned shipyard in Satala as overseen by the American Samoa Shipyard Authority has resolved major hurdles that existed at the start of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration. The accomplishments of the American Samoa Shipyard team have been considered a huge success and have exceeded expectations as they have been able to revive the once closed shipyard. Within 18 months, the shipyard team has been able to repair, revive and put the yard back to full working capacity.

Within these 18 months, the American Shipyard Authority has accomplished the following:

- Dry Docked 28 vessels ranging from government-owned vessels to cargo vessels, passenger vessels and domestic and foreign fishing boats.
- Repaired many boats along-side shipyard dock.
- Repaired 700 feet of railway stretching out to where it is 120 feet deep.
- Full repairs of the two cradle beds completely (metal and all wooden sections).
- Added 30 new roller sections (value of more than \$500k) to each side of the cradle
- The frames of the cradles were removed, replaced and reinstalled under water.
- All equipment necessary for basic operations purchased and all in use: scissor lifts, forklifts, crane, floatation lift balloons, new welding machine, plasma cutters, vacuum trailer, water blaster, lathe, compressors, power tools, small tools, drones, diving equipment, underwater equipment and many other small tools, accessories, etc.
- Replenished inventory and purchased USA made products. Inventory now exceeds \$800k.
 - The Welding Shop has expanded with more machinery and now has 20 welding stations.
 - The machine shop has been renewed with new machinery and full stock of parts for machinery and equipment, however this is an ongoing effort as much more effort needs to be done.
- Fully cleaned surrounding areas to include the shoreline around the shipyard.

Ongoing:

- Extension of 24 ft to accommodate the longer purse seiners that are now more than 300 ft long. The cradle is 308 ft long, however this will leave the shipyard without space to have machinery on the cradles to execute all the necessary jobs such as painting, sandblasting, etc.
- Electrical panel system upgrades for the winch of the cradle and electrical system for the entire shipyard. This is a complicated process and the shipyard team is working with a California company to complete this process without any disruptions to shipyard operations.

Apart from the economical and revival success, the shipyard has created an incredible force of efficient workers. The Shipyard's success is a collective effort of 26 skilled workers and 13 security staff, accounting, procurement, office personnel. The majority of the shipyard's employees have been cross-trained; each member has been taught and trained to be more versatile and be able to perform in different work positions. All skilled workers are capable and certified to drive and operate equipment that is in the shipyard. The 10 welders were recently certified also for their trade. Another factor for the Shipyard's success is the great

communication with the shipyard board of directors. They continue to approve and support projects and have allowed the Shipyard's management and staff to execute them with trust.

In 2022, the American Samoa Shipyard Authority doubled its productivity from drydocking 8 boats in 2021, to 16 boats in 2022. The ASSA also successfully docked 2 from Apia, and 1 from Taiwan signaling confidence from foreign companies in the local shipyard. The American Samoa Shipyard Authority has been a success story for the last two years and continues to carry out its motto of "Serving the Largest, Safest, and Busiest Port in the Pacific."



Office of Public Information

Since its establishment in 1964, KVZK has served as a propagating instrument for American Samoa. This past year, the Office of Public Information (OPI) continues to make great strides in the dissemination of information. As with the previous year, KVZK continues to prioritize the update of standards and systems of local production, the expansion of programming to reach broader audiences, and the upgrade of existing analog to the digital library system. Below are OPI's ongoing achievements:

Social Media Outreach

Social media has been the leading method of connecting to global audiences; with the on-going pandemic requiring social distancing and/or community lockdowns, the usage and dependability on social media skyrocketed over the past two years. During 2021 and 2022, KVZK utilized social media platforms expanding to internet audiences through live streaming and uploads of prerecorded content or programs.

KVZK Public Media Library Digitization

The Office of Public Information (OPI) is in its second year of this three year project. All historical tapes and reels produced since 1963 have been shipped out to the contractor and digitization is now in process.

KVZK TV DIGITAL Migration

During the first quarter of FY2021, OPI contracted the services of the Melanesia Media Group (MMG), a company based in New Zealand, to upgrade KVZK's broadcast system from analogue to digital format. The new system would place KVZK TV on par with current public broadcasting agencies modernizing equipment and workflow, which will provide high quality definition to all viewers. OPI is waiting for the arrival of the digital antennas for full digital upgrade.



Emergency Alert System Re-activated

To date, the Emergency Alert System is fully functional with voice warnings over video broadcast.

American Samoa Telecommunications Authority

The American Samoa Telecommunications Authority provides the Territory (ASTCA) with modern telecommunication infrastructure for keeping residents and businesses connected to the ever-changing requirements of communications in voice, data, video, and IoT (internet of things). From mobile, broadband, wireline, high-definition television, and more, ASTCA serves as the American Samoa Government's (ASG) catalyst for economic development in the new global digital economy.

Under a newly appointed CEO, aggressive efforts in meeting the Lemanu-Talauega Administration's goals for increasing economic outcomes have been deployed with maximum benefit and return on infrastructure investments made by past and current administrations.

With significantly more bandwidth capacity and direct subterranean fiber connections to every home and business across all inhabited islands, ASTCA provides the only such network in the emerging economies of Polynesia and most of Micronesia and Melanesia. From the Hawaiki Submarine Cable spur unit, subterranean BLAST fiber network, advanced VoLTE mobile network, and more – the Territory offers broadband quality, speed, availability, and pricing with no parallel in the region – giving the people of American Samoa, businesses, institutions, scientific research, and entrepreneurs a unique opportunity for maximizing their competitive advantage under principles of digital equity. Furthermore, the network is in good security standing with USAC, and Team Telecom (US Departments of Justice and Homeland Security), making it suitable for any company requiring ISO 27001 security to invest in American Samoa.

Beginning in FY2021 and continuing in FY2022, ASTCA management has started to operate under a lean and nimble technology model where A/B testing scenarios are employed across the department for quickly improving customer service and outcomes in all areas, from staff development, customer service, operations, balance sheet financial reporting, and more. Daily operations and executive management are exercised by the CEO; policies and strategic planning are determined by the ASTCA Board.

The accomplishments of ASTCA during FY2022 had been the realignment and optimization of the organizational core business units from changes made in FY2021 with the appointment of the new CEO and Board, intending to make ASTCA a more genuine customer-focused organization. Efforts are primarily focused on the operations and inter-department (and intra) coordination for optimizing business outcomes and improving efficiencies, with localization exceptions, to telecom industry best practices. As a result, ASTCA realized its highest revenue performance and best metrics across key performance indicators (KPIs) for FY2022.

Customer Service and Commercial

With a focus on community, ASTCA continues strengthening and improving customer service, product development, outreach, and sales. Policy implementations that focus on real-time data, and the needs of all customers, from residential and business to government, continue to improve. Management coaching and outreach to educate employees to understand that customer experience and satisfaction must occur across all customer touchpoints to maximize stakeholder satisfaction has been fundamental in shifting the organizational culture of moving ASTCA forward. Year 2022 Customer Service Accomplishments are as follows:

- Product Launch, Cloud Services
- Product expansion, HDTV Television

- Product expansion, postpaid roaming services
- Product launch in process, 5G mobile wireless
- Added mobile VoLTE handset network compatibility
- SMS text platform Improved functionality
- Improved and greater coverage of mobile service areas
- Decrease in unprocessed calls from changes made beginning in FY2021
- An ASTCA retail store and service center are being established in Manu'a to enhance customer service.

Engineering

In technology and engineering, significant changes ASTCA's spectrum to fiber broadband, security, and network resiliency. Focus has been on the administrative areas of inter-department structures, the breakdown of teams, and the general engineering buildout of staff with improved cross-training. This delineation is the new foundation of our workforce so that ASTCA can minimize single points of failure and grow multiple teams across multiple technology functions without necessitating higher costs by keeping headcount the same. With this renewed focus on staff development and cross-training, ASTCA has achieved many goals and completed many projects over the fiscal year. Year 2022 Engineering Accomplishments are as follows:

- LTE Microcell modules were installed across Tutuila, with major mobile tower sites added in Manu'a, to improve mobile coverage for voice and data services.
- Successfully completed 5G frequency licenses under FCC auction 108; acquired licenses that cover all islands, including Swains and Rose Atoll.
- FCC MetaSwitch Stir and Shaken project, technology to combat fraudulent robocalls and illegal phone number spoofing, has been implemented and is helping to protect residents.
- SIP (Session Initiation Protocol) Project completed. Providing many advantages over traditional phones for the globalized and interconnected era, this is used for initiating, maintaining, and terminating communication sessions, from voice, video, messaging applications, and more.
- MetaSwitch Migration completed to SIP (Session Initiation Protocol). This allows for improved connections between carriers and "things" to communicate worldwide.
- Emergency Alert System (EAS) equipment live on the network, automating emergency notifications from NOAA displayed on ASTCA Television.
- Warning Alert System (WEA/IPAWS) implemented for public safety, alerting those who own compatible mobile devices to receive messages alerting them of imminent threats in their area from the President, Federal, State, Tribal and Territorial levels.
- Calix cloud and systems software for managing subscriber bandwidth availability integrated with MIND enterprise software for automating the provisioning of customer services.
- High-level engineering and project management work completed for BLAST submarine cable between Tutuila and Manu'a; repairs in process.
- LTE Microcell modules were installed across Tutuila, with major mobile tower sites added in Manu'a to improve mobile coverage and services.
- Emergency Two-Way Radio system setup for inter-island Tutuila and Manu'a and Intra-Manu'a communications completed.
- Direct FEMA connection to Homeland Security from Los Angeles to local ASTCA Datacenter for dedicated circuit capacity over Hawaiki cable.

Critical Infrastructure Continuity During Code-Red

BCP Business Continuity Plans were successfully implemented across all divisions and ASTCA departments at the time of COVID-19 community spread and immediately before the official Code Red declaration from the Governor. During this time, ASTCA saw bandwidth utilization increase by 20% with peaks of 100% with no measurable impact on the network or service delivery. Teams were dedicated to facilitating critical ASG Code Red projects for the Department of Health, LBJ Medical Center, Public Safety, Department of Education, and Homeland Security. ASTCA extended the billing and collections cycle to ease financial pressures on the community and began a public service campaign to inform and educate the public on how their ASTCA services can be used for maximizing social distancing, remote work, and learning. Additional efforts for reducing community spread were implemented by creating drive-thru stores for safe and contactless shopping.

ASTCA has experienced profound technological change in the last 4 – 5 years, from fiber broadband, mobile delivery, and network hardening, to cybersecurity. These investments, including the scheduled deployment of 5G for improved customer service in FY2023, and build outs of our retail stores, bring the Territory closer to achieving the Lemanu-Talauaga Administration’s goals of reaching 100% digital equity in American Samoa with every household in American Samoa having access to affordable, fast, and high-quality broadband internet. ASTCA will continue to keep the territory connected and relevant in the new global digital economy, focusing on developing local engineering capacity for the new global digital economy.

American Samoa Power Authority

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) is powerless to influence the price of fuel used to produce electricity. The increase in fuel costs, which is also visible at gas stations, has increased the cost kWh rate. ASPA continues to explore renewable energy options for American Samoa, including wind turbine technology and solar photovoltaic panels (PV). With limited flowing water for Hydro, these two Renewable Energy resources are the only proven technologies that will fit within our island's landscape. Until then, we are at the mercy of global fuel market prices, as well as the numerous challenges associated with shipping and higher material costs around the world.

1.0 Power Division Accomplishments

2 x 3.5MW GE Generator Sets	ASPA Power Generation successfully installed and commissioned two new 3.5MW GE generator sets at Tafuna plant. Total project cost - \$3M.
Five Major 30,000 Hour Engine Overhauls	ASPA Power Generation successfully completed Major Engine (32,000 hours) on five (5) 3.5 MW GE units at Satala Power Plant. Project Cost - \$1.25M
7,000 New LED Lights Installed	ASPA T&D completed the installation of 7,000 LED street lights on, Tutuila, Manua and Aunuu. Project Cost - \$1.4M

20 MW Solar PV Project - Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)	Phase-1 expected Commercial Operation Date (COD) - Dec 2023 Phase-2 expected completion date - 2024. Project cost - \$40M.
42 MW Wind Generation Power Purchase Agreement (PPA)	Calculated wind generation - 101,200,000 kWh per year; this represents 63% of ASPA’s annual energy production. When commissioned the 20MW Solar PV and 42 MW Wind Power sources will produce 121,500,000 kWh of energy per year or 82% of American Samoa’s energy needs. Wind Power Project cost - \$106M.
Waste to Energy Project and 1.0MW Power Generation	ASPA is finalizing working plans to build and operate its own Waste to Energy gasification plant to destroy 80 tons of municipal solid waste per day. The plant will also produce up to 10,000 MWh of energy annually. Commercial operation date is 24 months from the signing of the Contract with ANKUR for the supply of equipment and installation. Project Cost - \$9M.
Waste Oil to Diesel Fuel Distillation Plant	Small Scale Waste Oil to Diesel Fuel Distillation Plant The distillation plant will process waste oil collected on island and discharged from ships that arrive at the Pago Pago port. All waste oil will be processed into diesel fuel. Project cost - \$1M.
Aunu’u Solar PV Project	Aunu’u Renewable Energy – Solar PV with Battery Storage. This Project is pending award. The project includes the installation of 430 kW of Solar PV panels and 1,500 KWh of battery storage. Project Cost - \$1.5M.

2.0 Water Division Accomplishments

Drilling, Construction and Connection of New Water Wells

- Completed the drilling and construction of new groundwater wells at Iiili -Well #25, Canco Hill -Well #27 and Tafuna - Well# 18, 19, and 20.
- Six (7) new water wells connected in 2021 to include; Tafuna -Well #7, Faleniu -Well #6 and Iiili -Well #25, Tafuna - Well# 18, 19, and 20, and Malaeloa-Well #15
- Three (3) more wells will be connected on the 2nd quarter of 2023 to include Canco hill- Well #27, Pavaiai Well #28 & Well #29

New Water Storage Tanks

- Completed three new tanks in Olosega, Fitiuta and in the Upper Tramway in Utulei.
- Completed the Installation of a new tank liner for Vaipito tank & Vatia tank.
- Tank material for Faga’itua tank has arrived. The delay was unexpected due to the pandemic border closure. Construction of this tank is nearing completion.
- Rehabilitation of Futiga and Pavaiai welded tank 100% completed
- Iiili tank & Pavaiai Tank #3 rehabilitation will be completed in the 1st quarter of 2023

AC Pipeline Replacements (replacing aging and leaking pipelines).

- Completed 30 miles of AC pipeline replacement as of November 2022.
- \$6m worth of waterline project materials was procured and delivered to ASPA.
- Pavaiai to Futiga AC pipe replacement project 100% complete
- Nuuli & Fagaalu to Utulei AC pipe replacement design has been awarded.
- Design work for AC pipe replacement is on-going for Aua 90% complete, Tafuna is 50% complete and Pago Pago areas is 75% complete.

Other Water Projects

- ASPA installation of 20,000 gallons per day Reverse Osmosis machine for Aunuu was completed. However the unit need to be upgraded due to sudden change of chloride level due to sea level rise
- Construction for Eastside Villages Wastewater Collection system Package-5, Phase - 2 from Aua to Onesosopo is 70% complete.
- Odor control reduction installation is 95% complete
- Leone Vaitogi WW feasibility study has been awarded
- Procurement and installation of WW Sludge press is on-going
- ASPA Wastewater Master Plan procurement on-going

3.0 Waste Water Division Accomplishments

Wastewater operational goals are to improve customer service and operation while reducing operational cost. Customer service is being improved by proactively reducing the source of disruptions to the treatment train and the backlog of customer requests. The backlog of customer service requests have reduced from 7 days to 3 days over the last couple of years.

- UTULEI NPDES Permit: Wastewater operation have successfully appealed EPA board of appeal Utulei final National Pollutant Discharge Eliminating System (NPDES) permit to include the renewal of the facility’s variance from secondary treatment requirements (“waiver”) under section 301(h) of the Clean Water Act. ASPA wastewater also successfully appealed to the EPA Board of Appeal Utulei permit limitation on Total Nitrogen, Total Phosphorus, Ammonia and Whole Effluent Toxicity. The appeal was the use of new data collected at the request of EPA under the Administrative order of 2011. This appeal led to a higher recalculation of a dilution credit from 99:1 to 121:1
- EPA Request for Information: Under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 308(a) EPA Docket No.CWA-308-9—21-022. Pursuant to the Agency’s information-gathering authority under Section 308(a) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. § 1318(a), EPA is requesting information regarding record keeping & reporting of effluent samples, sanitary sewer overflows, bypasses of Ultraviolet Disinfection system, and plans for sludge handling and management. ASPA wastewater complied and responded to the above request for information covering the period calendar year 2016 – 2021. Wastewater operation utilizes File Maker Pro Schedule and Shareware as its standalone maintenance and management system.
- Developed the Utulei Outfall Receiving Water Sampling Plan for receiving water monitoring, analysis, and reporting. Documents present the Sampling Plan including a description of the sampling locations, parameters to be sampled, and sampling methods. The required receiving water sampling will provide an assessment of compliance with the NPDES permit requirements and the American Samoa Water Quality Standards.
- Up-Date Asset Management Program (AMP) to include critical assets in the database.

- ASPA Management team accepted and negotiated with USEPA Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) terms and deadlines. AOC gives ASPA wastewater opportunity to discuss resolution of currently identified Clean Water Act violations at the Utulei Sewage Treatment Plant and the Tafuna Sewage Treatment Plant. While we have completed and compiled with some items of the AOC, AOC will be review and completed in October of 2024.
- Replace float switch level sensor to hydrostatic level transmitter. Equipment is a solid structure with no moving parts and is highly reliable with long service life. Easy to install, simple structure, economic and durable. Ensure that the fill level of a lift station does not overflow.
- Replace existing wooden shelter to Lift Station with reinforced cinder block structure with concrete roofing shelters. Completed 7 lift stations and project to continue to include eleven (11) other lift stations.

4.0 Solid Waste Divisions Accomplishments

- Purchase, installation and training of staff on the operation of the new scale software for the Futiga Landfill scale.
- Purchased 200 x 6 cubic yards of bins to replace damaged bins on the main island of Tutuila.

Apprentice and Lineman Training Programs

ASPA faces a shortage of technical staff in the area of civil, environmental, and electrical and mechanical engineering. There is a limited pool and shortage of suitably qualified engineers and technical staff on the island. ASPA is investing heavily in its Apprentice and Lineman training programs which typically takes five (5) years to complete. Ten (10) trainee lineman and six (8) apprentices were hired as of November 2022. Six (6) diesel mechanics who graduated from United Technical Institute (UTI) in Arizona returned to the territory in 2022 and are working in ASPA's Power Generation Division. ASPA will continue to hire and invest in experienced engineers and technical staff from off-island to build and operate its Power, Water and Wastewater systems.

The completion of future projected ASPA's Renewable Energy projects, namely the 42MW Wind Farm, the 20MW Solar PV Farm and the 1.0MW Waste to Energy Gasification plant will enable ASPA to reduce the cost of electricity by approximately thirty (30) percent. This alone will have a positive effect on the cost of local production and the welfare of society.

New diesel generators recently installed at the Satala and Tafuna power plants along with the completed renewable energy projects will further increase the security and reliability of the electricity supply in American Samoa. Lower electricity cost and increased reliability are both very important for investors because either factor can influence investment decisions of investors and companies who want to set up business in the territory.

When completed, the replacement of 160 miles of aging and leaking water lines will reduce ASPA's non-revenue water (water loss) by at least 50% and increase water supply capacity by 75 to 100 million gallons per month. Chronic low water pressure areas and zones will be reduced significantly.

ASPA's Water Division will continue to carry out leak detection, repairing and replacing leaking water lines to reduce non-revenue water. New well drilling and construction is ongoing to add more water to the system for stable water supply and pressure management. The ongoing removal of existing cesspools and septic systems on Tutuila and the installation of a new wastewater collection system will protect groundwater aquifers and the local marine environment.

Territorial Energy Office

The Territorial Energy Office program goals consist of reducing energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes while simultaneously ensuring their health and safety.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP):

A life- saving program that assists low-income households with frail elderly, individuals with disabilities, and young children, by helping pay a percentage of electrical bills with ASPA. Payments are normally made to ASPA directly to help and make sure households' electricity is not terminated. It pays a percentage of the electrical bill and provides energy-efficient appliances for low-income families. Without LIHEAP households will experience disconnection of utility services and it will also create dangerous situations, especially for elders and young children. Low-Income households faced with unaffordable energy bills result in cutting back on life-sustaining necessities, including food, medicine, and medical care.

The program began back in 2014 with less than 200 households. The following details provide a chronology of the progress and increase of households being served to date.

WAP/LIHEAP/LIHWAP

Program year 2021-2022: Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

- Total households weatherized: 72
- Total people assisted: 427
- Total elderly assisted: 67 (60yrs and older)
- Total disabled assisted: 17
- Total children assisted: 258

Program year 2021-2022: Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

- Total households assisted: 740 Total people assisted: 3,607
- Total elderly assisted: 341 (60 yrs and older) Total disabled assisted: 70
- Total children assisted: 1,500 (0 – 19 yrs.)

Program year 2021-2022: *Low-Income Home Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

- Total households assisted: 740
- Total people assisted: 3,607
- Total elderly assisted: 341 (60 yrs and older)
- Total disabled assisted: 70
- Total children assisted: 1,500 (0 – 19 yrs.)

**Note: The LIHWAP is a one-time-only grant. It will not be continued after this year.*

WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WAP) NASCSP ANNUAL

State Energy Plan (SEP) GRANT AWARD EE0009489

Light Retrofit Activities

TEO completed the retrofitting of 3 buildings of Iakina High School. The estimated area of coverage is approximately 7000 sq. ft. Estimated project cost savings to the school of 1,462 watts.

Ongoing projects

TEO is happy to extend services to assist with water bills; however, the funding is only for one year. They will continue to stay in touch with the Federal Department of Energy and team up with other States and Territories to convince DOE to continue this important program for low-income households.

Several goals TEO has focused on assisting ASEPA with EV Charging Stations; working with ASPA on securing funding from DOE for the waste-to-energy project; hydropower and solar panels for individual homes. TEO will work with ASPA to seek out home renovation designs to assist individual families that need and request solar panels for their homes and improve electrical grid capacity to accommodate excess power generated from individual homes and cost-saving measures of compensation to the families that don't necessarily have to be money.

Department of Parks and Recreation

Parks and recreation is vital to community health and well-being. Over the years, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has been working in ensuring that all people have access to clean parks and recreational facilities; more importantly the programs and services it provides. DPR's goal is aimed at improving health and wellness by focusing on the upgrade of its territorial parks and recreational facilities, creating new park spaces and developing new facilities to enhance the quality of life.

In September 2022, \$1,996,433.00 of Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was approved to fund the improvements of parks and recreational facilities. The approved projects include a new territorial playground, Lions Park multi-purpose court and a new Little League Baseball Field for. Below is a list of prioritize projects DPR is currently working on. The goal is that by the end of 2024, most of the projects will be complete.

LWCF projects for 2022	LWCF projects for 2023 - 2024
1. Little League Baseball Field	1. Tafuna Sports Complex
2. Onesosopo Outdoor Sports Field	2. Utulei Shoreline Repair
3. Vaitogi Memorial Park	3. Pala Lagoon Shoreline Repair
4. Lions Park Upgrade - Phase II	4. All other park repairs
5. Territorial Park Playground	a. Fagaalu basketball court
6. Racquetball Court	b. Pago Pago tennis court
7. Tafuna Sports Complex	c. Hitting Wall
	d. Tia Seu Lupe
	e. Tramway Lookout
	f. Village projects
	i. Vaitogi Village Playground & Multi-Purpose Court

Lions Park

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration continues to work towards upgrading public spaces for the community. On October 07, 2022, the new Lions Park was dedicated and opened to the public. The re-opening of the Lion's Park was celebrated with a Block Party that was hosted by the American Samoa Government (ASG) Departments and agencies. The celebration brought Elementary and High School students from all across American Samoa including parents and teachers. ASG Departments and Agencies decorated their assigned areas and organized games and fun prizes for the students. A variety of Food vendors were invited to participate in the celebration. Governor Lemanu encouraged the public to utilize the Lion's Park for family outings and gatherings. Following the day of the event, the Lion's Park was occupied with families hosting picnics and enjoying the new upgrades to the Lion's Park.

The new Lions Park upgrade consisted of 7 new Fale Samoa, 4 new restrooms, new courts for basketball, volleyball, netball, pickle ball and sand volleyball. A new walking trail circles the park, a new parking space, renovated playground and a sand filled park all marked the new face of Lions Park. The 1st phase of the Lions Park upgrade is complete.



The 2nd phase focuses on the renovation of the Tennis Sports Complex, an additional 3 picnic shelters, completion of the multi-purpose courts and the installation of a 2nd playground all situated on the west side of the park.

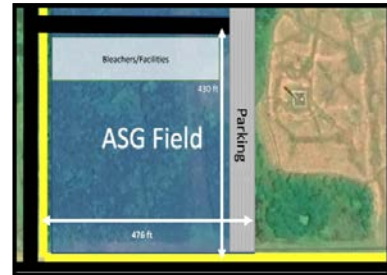
DPRS New Office Building

The new DPR office building is almost complete. The old admin building has been demolished to widen the road going to the Agriculture Office. The main objective is to turn the service road to a main road. The plan is to widen the road and provide up to 20 feet width for sidewalk, bike path, and walking trail. DPRS office has been temporarily relocated to the Tony Solaita baseball field for the time being while construction is ongoing. The new DPR office will house the administration and supply room.



Tafuna Sports Complex

DPR is working collaboratively with DOC in the master planning of the Tafuna Sports Complex. Part of the field as illustrated in the picture has been leased to the American Samoa Football Federation. The other part will be under DPR. Plans are to have an outdoor sports field and a swimming pool right behind the baseball field. The proposed swimming pool is 50 meters long with 8 lanes. In addition, there will be trails for walking and bicycles. Parking spaces are included in the plans.



Recreation Division

DPRS recreation division is now in full swing with all positions filled. This will help strengthen our recreation program as DPR plans to implement the overall recreational program for the department (Little league summer program, ASG Co-Ed softball league, Children's Summer recreation games, etc.) This also alleviates the shortage of personnel to oversee the proper maintenance of the recreation areas located in the local parks and designated multi-use fields currently being constructed.

Land & Water Conservation Fund

On May 27, 2022, American Samoa was awarded \$2 million from the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program. These funds are to support the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities needed to support individual active participation in such recreation and to promote the health and vitality of our communities.

Vaitogi Tsunami Memorial Park

On March 16, 2022, Vailu'u Construction cleared out the Vaitogi field for a new park. Plans for Vaitogi Park include picnic shelters, tables, benches, restrooms, parking space, miniature putt-putt course, walking trails and a gazebo. Work on the Rockwell surrounding the park is complete.

**Onesosopo Park Upgrade**

The Onesosopo Park Upgrade is on hold due to Fletcher's sewer line project which is situated in Onesosopo. Once Fletcher finishes, construction will begin for an outdoor football field with running tracks, picnic shelters, tables, benches and a playground.

Replacement of Spotlight System

The replacement of Tony Solaita's lighting system is almost complete. The construction of the Little League Baseball Field is now with Paramount Builders due to unforeseen circumstances with Pentagon. Renovations to the infield and a new paint job is complete.

**Sports Complex****Increased Accessibility (Veterans memorial Stadium)**

Additional activities include the opening of the stadium to the public from 5 am to 4 pm, 5 days a week to use the track to walk/run. Authorized upon request practice and games for AYFS, Handballs, JROTC training, community and department activities, churches, and private sector events. This increased accessibility promotes health and fitness, family activities, comradeship amongst ASG departments, and a positive relationship built between the Sports Complex and private sector and the community.

VIP Room Upgrades

The VIP room including bathrooms was renovated to ensure that VIP's and foreign dignitaries are comfortable when attending ASG sponsored events such as Flag Day etc. The Sports Complex main office also underwent renovations.

Information & Communication Technology**American Samoa Government Technology Office**

The American Samoa Technology Office (ASGTO) has continued to provide technical support to various government agencies, offices, and divisions at the direction of the Governor's Office. ASGTO ensures that all government entities have the technology solutions and support to operate effectively and efficiently. ASGTO services include assisting with hardware and software installations, resolving technical issues, and training and supporting government

employees on how to use various technology systems. In addition, ASGTO also continues the evaluation and development of information technology policies. ASGTO plays a crucial role in promoting the use of technology throughout the American Samoa Government.

Enhanced IT Help Desk Performance

The ASGTO has successfully established a centralized IT help support desk. This helpdesk serves as a single point of contact for all IT support requests within the Governor's Office. This single point allows a more streamlined and efficient process for addressing IT support issues and service requests. ASGTO has also started accepting service support requests from other agencies and departments to provide improved services.

Establishing this support center has dramatically improved the ability of the ASGTO to provide timely and effective IT support to government agencies, offices, and divisions. ASGTO has also enhanced this helpdesk service by implementing a helpdesk ticketing system software. This software has dramatically improved ASGTO's helpdesk support services by ensuring all incoming requests are recorded and tracked to ensure requests are completed and done in a reasonable time. The help desk ticketing software enables ASGTO to generate metric reports to measure workload, timeliness, and multiple types of calls the helpdesk support services complete. The information provides vital feedback to improve the quality and efficiency of ASGTO support services.

Improved 3CX App Usage (Phone Services)

The office phone system underwent several upgrades to assist with directing the numerous incoming calls and connecting each caller to the appropriate personnel or to the direct division for services.

- Gained full admin access to the app dashboard, including the necessary control for directing all office phone lines.
 - ASGTO has full admin access for the 3CX app dashboard during the 3rd and 4th quarters. This granted the necessary control to ASGTO personnel for directing all office phone lines and the capability to establish new phone lines without prior approval from ASTCA. This has given ASGTO the free rein and needed control to improve phone services.
- Created new direct lines (10) for various offices.
 - 699-ARPA | ARPA
 - 633-MANU | Manu'a Operations
 - 633-OCCO | Constitutional Convention
 - 633-OSAS | Secretary of American Samoa
 - 633-EEOO | Equal Employment Opportunity Office
 - 699-ROAD | Road Marshal
 - 699-INCO | Insurance Commissioner's Office
 - 633-TECH | Technology Office
 - 633-PASS | TalofaPass
 - 633-SLCO | Samoan Language Commission Office

The American Samoa Technology Office continues to provide assistance for various offices, agencies, and divisions that require assistance.

Broadband Core Working Group

As part of President Biden's initiative to eliminate the digital divide and ensure that all Americans have access to dependable, high-speed, and affordable broadband, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced \$61 Billion available in programs to fund broadband infrastructure on May 16, 2022. These funding opportunities made available to states and territories include Enabling Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Program; Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program; Digital Equity Act (DEA) Programs. American Samoa is eligible for at least \$25 million in funding, with \$1.25 million explicitly allocated for planning. Under the direction of the Governor's Office, the ASGTO assisted in coordinating and establishing a Broadband Core Working Group (BCWG) to maximize American Samoa's potential for securing funding from NTIA award programs. The focus of the BCWG was to secure funding through these funding opportunities and to implement a unified broadband plan for the Territory. The BCWG has continued to use the American Samoa Territorial Broadband Strategy (ASTBS) document as its starting point.

Since the formation of the BCWG in May 2022, its members have held weekly meetings regularly. There were important application submission dates and deadlines for some NTIA funding opportunities during July and August. The BCWG assisted and supported the development and submission of these grant applications. Members of the BCWG have contributed at least two to three hours per week to virtual meetings and discussions. The ASGTO continues to support the BCWG's efforts. The BCWG contributed to the BEAD program application submission. American Samoa anticipates receiving \$1.25 million in planning funds under the BEAD program as a result of the efforts of the American Samoa BCWG.

American Samoa Cybersecurity Planning Committee

In November, ASG established the Cybersecurity Planning Committee (ASCPC) through the American Samoa Technology Office (ASGTO). According to Executive Order 005-21, it functions under the supervision of the ASGTO. The committee's primary purpose is to establish and make suggestions on subjects about the creation, revision, and execution of plans, initiatives, investments, programs, and policies that pertain to the ASG and Territory's cybersecurity posture.

One of the committee's main goals is to create, evaluate, and update a Cybersecurity Plan for the Territory. The committee is also accountable for serving as the governing body for grant programs about cybersecurity, including the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP). The committee ensures that proposed and financed investments and projects align with and support the approved Cybersecurity Plan in this capacity. In addition, the committee gives suggestions on the development/design, ranking, and implementation of investments, projects, and activities. ASCPC responsibilities are strictly advisory. The group is responsible for providing the ASGTO and ASG leadership with reports and briefings upon request. It is also responsible for drafting, reviewing, and updating the Cybersecurity Plan for the ASG and Territory, offering recommendations on cybersecurity issues referred by the Technology Office, and supervising any cybersecurity tasks assigned by the Technology Office. Other functions of the committee include assisting in establishing funding priorities, ensuring that financial

investments support reducing capability gaps or sustaining capabilities, and working as needed with the American Samoa Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC) and other committees.

Office of Procurement

The Office of Procurement serves as the central authority on procurement for the American Samoa Government and is responsible for the procurement of all goods, construction, and services including the management, control, warehousing, and sale of store/inventory commodities contained in its warehouse.

Year 2022, started off challenging with combating the community spread of COVID-19 in American Samoa. In spite of nearly 50% of staff members being infected with the virus in the initial wave, procurement was able to successfully keep operating with limited staffing and by following strict social distancing guidelines.

Procurement was heavily involved in ASG's response to the pandemic by participating in weekly FEMA planning meetings, processing the numerous requests for emergency services and supplies, as well as storing and releasing ASG's inventory of personal protective equipment (PPE) as ordered through FEMA and the Strategic National Stockpile.

Emergency Procurement Rule

As response to the pandemic, the office of Procurement implemented an Emergency Procurement Rule that increased the small purchase threshold from \$10,000 to \$25,000 and implemented a micropurchase threshold of \$10,000. These new increased thresholds have greatly assisted by expediting the purchasing process, which has allowed departments to get their much needed services and supplies in a timely manner to combat the pandemic. This has now led Procurement to implement a permanent rule change, which took effect on November 29, 2022.

Priority Projects Committee

With the numerous priority projects established by the Lemanu-Talauaga Administration, a committee of staff from the Department of Public Works, Governor's Office Special Programs, Department of Education and the Office of Procurement meet weekly to review and update the status of these various projects. This committee is in constant contact to ensure that the projects are on track and moving expeditiously through the proper channels and processes. These projects range from the various school projects, road rehabilitation projects, seawalls/slope protection, demolition projects, etc. This also includes the numerous Manu'a projects such as the road and shoreline projects, Evacuation Routes, etc.

OneSolution Software Updates

The Office of Procurement, in conjunction with the Department of Treasury IT Division, held weeklong sessions with OneSolution's Consultant to update the Business Process Review maps and discuss the current challenges faced with the OneSolution software. A number of exciting projects that will increase productivity, namely an electronic Purchase Order (PO) form, and an electronic link between the Office of Procurement Receiving and the Department of Treasury Accounts Payable, were also discussed. Discussion also centered on updating of the StoresInventory Module, which will allow procurement to reinstate Stock Control.

STATE OF EDUCATION

The Department of Education

The American Samoa Department of Education employs over two thousand personnel in its various Divisions and offices. More than 12,000 students, ages 3 to 18 years of age are provided with support and services in the 22 Head Start / Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers, 23 elementary schools and 6 high schools.

New Education Standards during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Remote Learning Program for schools

Federal funding allowed for students to be provided with technological devices that enabled them to access their classes from home should school closures happen. Mandated remote planning drills in 2021 allowed ASDOE to identify issues and challenges to improve school Remote Learning Plans. Community spread demanded that ASDOE implement their remote learning or distance learning programs for students at the onset of the community outbreak. The Remote Learning Plans went into effect during the island wide lockdown from February-May 2022. In light of COVID based school closures, schools were able to offer learning virtually, as expected. Students were allowed back to the classrooms for “*in-person*” learning the first week of May 2022 with COVID restrictions still in place. In-person learning would only be for students opting for “direct instruction” or “one-on-one” interaction with the school teacher. Otherwise, students would still continue with online learning from home. Despite the struggle students experienced academically, ASDOE was able to address student’s academic challenges by offering an opportunity for credit recovery during the summer.

Remote extra-curricular projects

Due to COVID school lockdowns, ASDOE ensured the extra-curricular projects were continued with the assistance of Technology to promote safety during the pandemic. Local students competed in National Competition online for NHD, Science Symposium and Science Fair. During the HOSA competition, 10 students and three advisors were invited to a face- to-face in June 2022.

COVID Meal Assistance Program

During school closures, the government wanted to ensure students were receiving the proper nutritious meals during the virtual learning sessions at home. DOE issued food coupons to all eligible students, a policy and procedure were created to ensure the distribution was seamless and went directly to the students and authorized family members of all students in American Samoa in both private and public schools.

New Courses (High School Curriculum)

In 2022, the ASDOE Secondary Division networked with DCI and IDS, and was able to introduce two AP courses (AP English and U.S. History) this school year into all 6 public high schools. Introduction to Programming and Intro to Computer Science have also been added to the ASDOE curriculum.

CSD Fall ASIA II program

An after-hour program where 10 sites implement their programs from 4:30pm-6:30pm. Program has helped to improve reading, writing and math skills, but also focuses on teaching children to read and speak fluently in the Samoan language.

ASG Scholarships

With the increase and rising cost of college, students are making every effort to seek ways and apply for financial assistance to continue their education. Coupled with an increased awareness of the ASG Scholarship Program, the number of ASG Scholarship recipients has increased. Within the past 3 years, there has been an increased number of students who have been awarded ASG Scholarships on island, here at the local community college and off-island. Within the past 3 years total scholarships have steadily increased as follows: 2020 (45) scholarships, 2021 (60 scholarships) and in 2022 (62 scholarships).

Teachers Resources for grades K-8 in Samoan Studies

Resources were reviewed, updated and developed for grades K-8 in Samoan studies to align with current Samoan standards and benchmarks as last updates were made in 1995.

Elementary Fall Sports

ASDOE launched an Elementary Fall tournament for volleyball and basketball for both boys and girls in October 2022. It was well attended and supported by the schools and community.

Early Reading Literacy for K-3

Initiative roll out for grades K-2 this year, to promote English Reading Readiness in these early grade levels, Teachers and Teachers Aides attended scheduled training and currently students are being assessed using an outside instrument.

The Adopt-A-School Program

The Adopt-A-School Program continues to be a high-priority program and the Authorities, Departments, and Offices maintained their efforts throughout the year to address issues requested by the leadership of the adopted school.

MOU Samoa

The development of memorandums of agreement or memorandums of understanding between the Department (with the authorization of ASG) and higher institutions of learning in neighboring Samoa is an outcome of the Atoa o Samoa talks held earlier this year. The Department is identifying professional development needs as well as reviewing educational opportunities for both personnel and students. The initial discussions held with Samoa officials and officials from the institutions of higher learning, have presented viable options for Department instructors in the area of vocational technology to be certified. Educational opportunities for eligible students interested in pursuing a degree in civil engineering, electrical engineering, nursing and other hard to fill areas are also practical options to be considered. Initial discussions also bring to light that the programs of these Samoa institutions of higher learning are United States Board certified and recognized and approved by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Marching Band Initiative

The Marching Band Initiative (MBI) has completed its 1st Year of implementation within the Public High Schools. It has been a hectic and challenging school year with all the setbacks due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 throughout the island. With the health welfare of our students – and our people – school closures were eminent and a lockdown of all social activities and gatherings were enforced to safeguard our island communities. Students were given e-learning resources, assigned work from teachers, to assist students with their education. However, despite these circumstances, the MBI team has managed to provide musical band services to our high schools prior to the arrival of the pandemic to our shores.

Prior to the arrival of musical instruments, music theory was conducted and taught as the basic foundation for the band program. As with all other academic activities, “hands on” approaches are critical in any learning experience. The following high schools delivered musical instruments: Fagaitua, Samoana, Tafuna, Leone, and Manu’a.

Tafuna High was able to set up a “*Cyber Band*” – since all students could not meet and perform at the same time. The opportunity provided us to create and conduct a “cyber” band performance and experience. Students who showed up for classes played their assigned instrument and were recorded at each class during the different days of the week.

Aligning Education, Workforce and Economy

Workforce development produces resilient individuals and promotes long-term economic expansion. The Territory's workforce and economic development begin in the classroom. The ASDOE plans to align with the Territory's workforce needs as identified by the ASG Department of Commerce, and offer new career pathways in these areas.

The 21st Century Employability and Life Skills program

After a successful pilot program in the summer of 2021 in collaboration with the DHR’s Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). This program was implemented in the summer of 2022. Students from public high schools were taught employability skills (resume writing, interviewing, teamwork, communication skills, filling out job applications), life skills, and financial literacy (personal budgeting, understanding the paycheck payroll process, needs vs. wants, housing, etc.), and computer applications (Microsoft Office).

CTE Student Summer Industry Internship Program

A paid 6-week career skills development program where students between 10th to 12th grades were engaged in 8 courses to gain work experience and familiarize themselves with the industry and learn and apply first-hand career and employability skills. Goal of the program is to increase awareness of industry trades skills among high school students.

Phase II for Coursera Career Academy - launched on September 8, 2022 to the community through flyers on the social media of the Department of Commerce FB page, radio ads and interview with a deadline to submit applications online October 14. The Department of Commerce has 183 registered applicants that have been selected. Virtual meetings will be held with Coursera reps with all selected enrollees to start orientation and set up individual dashboards for all students to begin their studies.

DOC is partnering with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) through a Memorandum of Understanding to monitor the enrollment and engagement of students throughout the 12 months for this program. This new Career Academy will offer 21 Certifications/Guided projects for 18 different job roles that are in high demand in the job market. The academy is geared toward job seekers and entry level professionals with no prerequisites to enter into the program and aims to provide opportunities for upskilling. The goal for this workforce development program remains to train our workforce for opportunities with internet related or remote jobs.

WIOA and Work-Based Learning CAP

To build workforce capacity, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) standards were met through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) program and Work-Based Learning at Human Resources to provide adults, displaced workers, and the youth the opportunity to develop and apply knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes and behaviors leading to better informed career choices, training services and productive employment.

American Samoa GIS User’s Group Training

GIS/IT staff continues to take free online and local instructor-led courses available from ESRI and Computer Manufacturers websites to enhance knowledge and acquire skills to increase work efficiency and team building. Staff also continues to seek assistance from local, NOAA and ESRI experts for any recommended ESRI Trainings. GIS/IT Staff also continues to conduct interagency training with the GIS Users Group on GIS software and equipment.

GIS Team conducted a GIS Training at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on May 27, 2022, open to all local GIS Users group members. The training was an introductory course with hands on into creating Surveys using Survey123, creating a web map and dashboard on ArcGIS Online, as well as learning to share and manage maps.

American Samoa Community College

Accreditation:

In January 2022, the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), a division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) announced it had reaffirmed the Accreditation status of ASCC for the next seven years. The College received word from the ACCJC that not only was the College’s accreditation reaffirmed, but the Commission had no Compliance Requirements for ASCC, which is a significant achievement for any institution of higher learning.

Response to COVID-19:

Policies adopted by ASCC during the Code Red period of 2022 reflected the official declarations issued by ASG. By March 2022, ASCC had reached a rate of 96% of full vaccination among its employees, while 3% were approved for religious exemption, and 1% were not yet vaccinated. As the Territory remained in a state of emergency, ASCC continued to utilize Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF III) to develop services appropriate during and beyond the pandemic. A portion of the HEERF funding was used to upgrade campus services, while qualifying students received direct assistance. Each qualifying student received a stimulus check with a letter containing the instructions provided by the institution concerning the Emergency Financial Aid Grants.

Reclassification:

ASCC continues to implement the reclassification of faculty as approved by the Board of Higher Education in December 2021. The College continues its dialogue with the Governor and the Fono to find solutions to the budgetary restraints that constitute an impediment to staff reclassification.

Capital Improvements:

- Progress continues on the new ASCC Cafeteria, which will include additional office space on the second floor. The building is expected to be completed by January 2023.
- Excavation continues on the hillside behind the Cafeteria to prepare the building site for the ASDOE Career and Technical School. ASDOE intends this new facility to provide career pathways and technical skills development for students interested in pursuing a career in these areas.
- While construction has yet to begin, plans are in place for ASCC to transform the quad of existing classrooms adjacent to the Cafeteria into a facility designated as the ASCC Smart-Art and Community Higher Education Building. A bidding process is currently underway to implement this CIP-funded project.

ASCC ROTC Cadet Places Second on National Scholarship List:

The Board of ROTC Scholarships announced in March that an ASCC Cadet had placed #2 overall on the nationwide list of approved Baseline ROTC Scholarships.

Social Science Department Research Project:

During the spring semester, students for POL 150 and PAD 150 engaged in a research-based group project, working together to identify a significant problem within the community, examine alternative policies, propose a policy solution to resolve the problem, and then prepare an action plan with steps needed to have the policy implemented by the government. Students presented their research and proposal in the form of a digital portfolio and a simulated public hearing. Each presentation included a panel consisting of three community members who served as evaluators and rated the level of achievement of the portfolios and simulated hearings.

ACNR Student attends the Haskell Environment Research Studies Institute:

In April, ASCC Natural Resources student was accepted into the Haskell Environmental Research Studies (HERS) Institute, which took place at the University of Kansas (KU) from June 6th to July 30th. The eight-week paid summer internship program was open to undergraduate students who are American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islanders who are U.S. citizens. After the summer program, during the academic year, HERS interns will have several opportunities to present their work at professional meetings, workshops, and symposia around the country, including the Society for Advancing Chicanos & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) or the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES).

ASCC Spring 2022 Graduates Awarded ASG Scholarships:

ASCC held its 76th Commencement on May 20th, utilizing a “drive-thru” format to minimize social contact during the outdoor event. Of the 68 graduates, 12 were awarded ASG scholarships to assist with their continuing educational careers. This brought the percentage of scholarship awardees among an ASCC graduating class to approximately 18%.

ASCC Glee Club Contributes to Film Soundtrack:

Under the guidance of their music director, Kuki Tuiasosopo, and assistant director Leagatonu Puaauli, seven members of the ASCC Glee Club contributed vocal performances to the music soundtrack of the upcoming feature film “Next Goal Wins” by the 21st Century Fox Studios. The movie is based on a documentary film of the same title that featured the International Soccer Team of American Samoa. According to 21st Century Fox, the ASCC Glee Club will be included in the film’s credits.

Samoan Studies Institute Co-Founding Amerika Samoa Language Academy:

The Samoan Studies Institute is engaged in a three-year project funded by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) to establish the first-ever Amerika Samoa Language Academy, which also goes by the name “O Oe ma Lau Gagana”. The project is a partnership with non-government community group Intersection Inc., and the goal is to offer local teachers a certificate qualifying them to teach Samoan Studies. On August 26th, the staff of both the SSI and Intersection attended the first orientation meeting to set the project in motion.

ASCC-PTK Holds Fall 2022 Induction: The Alpha Epsilon Mu chapter of the nation-wide Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society has seen a dramatic increase in PTK inductees, as the society proudly welcomed 22 new members during the fall semester 2022 induction ceremony.

Feleti Barstow Public Library

The mission of the Feleti Barstow Public Library (FBPL) is to serve as a center for lifelong learning dedicated to meeting the informational, technological, and cultural literacy needs of all age groups by providing both current and historical reading and instructional materials in a variety of formats. As the central public library for American Samoa, the FBPL serves as a model for other libraries and information centers to increase access to reading materials and the promotion of literacy. The FBPL continues to offer the following Services:

- Children’s Programs (Early Literacy programs, After School Program & Homework Club)
- Computer Lab Services
- Library Tours

A notable achievement for the FBPL in 202, is the approval of the State Plan for the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA)- 5 Year Plan from 2023 – 2027.

STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is an ever-growing existential reality. Its impacts have global, regional and local ramifications. The biggest threats to our region's stability are our climate and weather changes. Inevitably, the growing number of village communities and residents are burdened by negative impacts and costs-related to rising sea-level, massive land and coastal erosion, food and water



scarcity, pollution, diseases and health issues. Amidst threatening impacts, fresh and critical thinking, sustainable solutions, new adaptation, mitigation and transformative measures are expected from the human communities wherever they are located.

The issuance of an American Samoa Governor's Executive Order (ASGEO) on December 23, 2021 has led to the establishment of the American Samoa Resilience Commission (ASRC) as well as the Governor's Resilience Office (GRO).

Governor's Resilience Office

The newly formed Resilience Office will address historically fragmented and siloed efforts of the government by coordinating a holistic and comprehensive approach to the Territory's future planning and development initiatives. The office serves as an arm of ASRC to carry out the Governor's Executive Order's mandate. GRO in collaboration with ASRC works to identify vulnerable groups, communities, industries, ecosystems, and the potential economic ramifications for climate change related impacts. The main functions of GRO is to engage in physical visitations to climate change affected groups and places, evaluatively survey the situations, make risks and needs assessments, prepare and submit reports and recommendations to the Commission.

ASRC-GRO Quarterly Meetings

During the quarterly meetings, GRO presents its plans, programs, and identified grant opportunities that it intends to apply for. The significance of sharing information is for the commissioners to be aware of GRO's application plans and a pretext for not duplicating information, resources and data.

GRO Projects & Program

The GRO has planned a number of climate change initiatives and programs which include site visits to areas affected/impacted by climate change, outreach programs, training and educational programs as well as community/village projects. These projects have been planned to cover Tutuila, Aunuu, and the islands of Manua. Momentarily, such projects and plans are on hold due to financial and budgetary constraints.

Grant / Funding Opportunities

GRO submitted its first grant application for a community climate change project. While awaiting

consideration for this grant opportunity, preparation is underway for a federal OIA grant which focuses on *Revegetation of Coastal Sites duly affected by sand / coral mining. More grant opportunities are yet to be identified and considered by GRO for application submissions.

While progressing towards full institutional growth and structural development, GRO's leadership and staff earnestly strive to offer the best in its programs and support services for the bio-communities in American Samoa. Admitting that we are a vulnerable island territory due to climate change threatening impacts does not dishearten our common efforts to build and secure a resilient community that withstands and survives crises. On the same note, GRO is committed to creating such a resilient community that continues to be creative and innovative in ways where joy, harmony and peace can be experienced by every citizen and life ecosystem of American Samoa.

RESILIENCY AND MITIGATION

The Office of Disaster and Petroleum Management

The Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM) is an autonomous agency under the Officer of the Governor which provides administrative support for the development and implementation of the following ASG programs and activities:

- Office of Petroleum Management (OPM)
- American Samoa Petroleum Cooperative (ASPC)
- American Samoa Disaster Recovery Office (ASDRO)
- American Samoa Government Property Insurance

The ODAPM continues to assist local government agencies in the recruitment, development of applications, and implementation of federally funded grant programs to ensure project spending complies with federal requirements as set forth by federal grantors. The ODAPM works closely with local agencies on their fixed asset register to ensure that all structures and contents are properly valued and insured.

The Office of Petroleum Management also strives to ensure that the territory has an uninterrupted supply of specified fuel (Diesel, Mogas, Jet) quality at the most reasonable cost and to build and maintain the American Samoa Government (ASG) Fuel Facilities to meet the current and future demand of the Territory and to assure that the facilities are in compliance with all local and federal laws, rules, and regulations.

The ODAPM administers the Hazard Mitigation (HM) federal awards and the Public Assistance (PA) funding which is available to the Territory when disasters are presidentially declared. The HM program ensures pre-disaster mitigation projects are selected based on a priority rating determined by the Hazard Mitigation Council. The council is chaired by the Hon. Lieutenant Governor who serves as the Governor's Authorized Representative of GAR. The American Samoa Hazard Mitigation Plan is a narrative that reviews and evaluates risks and is updated by the HM team. The Plan fulfills the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) requirement for a mitigation planning process that "first, ensures federal assistance to the people of American Samoa following significant disasters, and second, allows the American Samoa Government to compete for federal mitigation program assistance annually."

The PA program is funded with post-disaster recovery monies to assist in the recovery and repair/rebuilding of damages sustained during a disaster. In response to the unprecedented and ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, the ODAPM is faced with new challenges, goals, and opportunities that collectively encompass this public health emergency.

The responsibility for oversight of the American Samoa Government Property Insurance returned to the ODAPM from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner in 2021.

The second year of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration presented challenges that were overcome with the successful delivery of program goals as evidenced by the following accomplishments:

From January-November 2022, the ODAPM, has received FEMA approval for numerous projects, obligations, drawdowns, and successful closeouts of all Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation projects for past federally declared disasters. A few notable closeouts 2022 include:

- FEMA is satisfied with all financial and supporting documentation with the successful completion of Tropical Storm Gita project worksheets for the following and approved Close-out of these projects:
 - Department of Treasury Customs Office Kennel (\$66,747.75)
 - Office of Procurement (Debris Removal and Emergency Work) (\$304,324.53)
 - Department of Health Island-wide Medical Preparation (\$34,181.52)
 - American Samoa Government Shipyard (\$24,086.76)
 - American Samoa TeleCommunications Authority (Emergency Protective Measures (\$241,651.64) (Damages to Poles & Wiring \$406,449.40) (Director Administrative Costs \$29,090.89) (Emergency Protective Measures \$21,161.51) for a total amount of \$698,353.44
 - Manumalo Baptist School (Contents & Equipment \$50,913.00) (Roof Repair \$85,227.96) (Bus Stop/Loading/Waiting Area \$38,499.14) (Direct Administrative Costs \$14,373.56) for a total amount of \$189,013.66
- FEMA is satisfied with all financial and supporting documentation with the successful completion of the 2009 Samoa Earthquake & Tsunami project worksheet for the American Samoa Government for Debris Removal (\$1,009,574.12), Protective Measures (\$32,262,802.80), Roads & Bridges (\$315,587.53), Water Control Facilities (\$2,498,168.87), Public Buildings (\$13,200,087.77), Public Utilities (\$38,487,839.26), Recreational Facilities (\$4,366,235.49) and State Management costs (\$2,003,993.27) in the total amount of \$94,144,289.11 and approved the Close-out of this project.
- FEMA approved the Final Inspection Report and Project Completion and Certification Report upon verification of all financial supporting documentation submitted to close out the American Samoa Telecommunications Authority's project (\$52,022.99).

FEMA approved for Obligation; project worksheet requests submitted by ODAPM for the following:

- COVID 19 - Department of Health Social Distancing (\$195,656.00)
- COVID 19 - Department of Health Public Service Announcements (\$236,283.00)
- COVID 19 - Department of Health Non-Congregated Sheltering for (\$761,784.70)
- COVID 19 - American Samoa Department of Homeland Security Emergency Operations Center operational costs (\$347,087.49)
- COVID 19 - Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center Ward extension and increased hospital bed capacity (\$1,903,957.00)

- COVID 19 - Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center acquisition and installation of the Negative Pressure Tent (\$352,686.75)

Other Notable accomplishments include:

- ODAPM Director Lisa Tuato'o was nominated by the U.S. Department of Interior and approved by FEMA to be a FEMA Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) Representative for AS, Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan).
- ODAPM was awarded \$461,302 in grant funding from FEMA BRIC FY2020 for Building Code Upgrade and Outreach Initiative.
- ODAPM participated and completed the FEMA Consultation for Mitigation Strategies for the Territory of American Samoa.
- ODAPM conducted Nature Base Solutions workshop with the American Samoa Government partnerships or members of the Hazard Mitigation Council chaired by the Lieutenant Governor Talauega E. V. Ale.
- ODAPM prepared and submitted five shoreline projects on behalf of the Department of Public Works (DPW) for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Multimodal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.
- ODAPM worked with ASTCA on their BEAD and Middle Mile project applications for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) offered under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.
- ODAPM completed the installation and joint inspection for the Tony Solaita Light System project in the amount of \$118,722.91.
- ODAPM completed the village project proposals for the following:
 - Sailele seawall
 - Masausi seawall, road, concrete culverts, and streams
 - Alofau concrete culverts and fences
 - Afono bridge
 - Lau'i'i streams
 - Continuation of the Nuuli seawall to Coconut Point
- ODAPM submitted six completed damage claims out of thirteen proposed that have now reached Phase 3 in the FEMA grants portal. This is great progress and accomplishment at this early stage of the application submissions for the Storm Swells King Tides Disaster 4669 that was federally declared on September 15, 2022.

Amerika Samoa's First Annual Disaster Resilience Summit 2022

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration in their second year in office successfully delivered the Amerika Samoa's First Annual Disaster Resilience Summit from September 27 to 29, 2022. This year's theme was "Bridging the Gap Between Government and Communities." The importance and value were placed on the *"Whole of American Samoa Community"* inclusive of individuals with special needs, private and public sectors, non-government and faith-based organizations, school children and the first response community performing emergency support functions' departments and offices.

The summit was well attended by the federal partners including Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region IX Leadership and Recovery Director, FEMA Pacific Area Office Director and Team, FEMA Preparedness and Recovery Teams, U.S. Department of Transportation

representatives, U.S. Geological Survey personnel, the American Red Cross Regional Director and the local first response partners with directors of their departments and offices. The most critical and equally important participants were students representing all schools of American Samoa from Tutuila, Manu'a and Aunu'u islands.

The summit is part of the 2022 National Preparedness Month activities promoted throughout the continental states, tribes, and territories. A special memorial ceremony was held on September 29th, 2022 commemorating the 13th year anniversary of the fateful 2009 Samoa Earthquake & Tsunami that claimed many lives in American Samoa. The goal was to engage the whole community on enhancing their awareness of resiliency efforts in preparation for, actively responding to and recovering from all disasters has been greatly achieved as a major milestone during this very first resilience summit.

Removal of Restrictive Drawdown Status

On May 19, 2022, FEMA Regional Director Mr. Robert J. Fenton, Jr. notified Governor Lemanu of the removal of “restrictive drawdown status” on grants administered by the ODAPM as a result of audit A-133 for ODAPM’s initiative to tighten internal controls and monitor project compliance. Permanent removal of restrictive drawdown status will be evaluated pending the results of monitoring site visits to ODAPM in 2023 and satisfactory resolution of all VAYGO testing.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

On November 15, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) or the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) or the once in a generation funding investment for all states, tribes and territories to apply for these federal grant funding. American Samoa Government took advantage of this opportunity and created a BIL team comprising of Department of Public Works, American Samoa Power Authority, American Samoa Telecommunications, American Samoa Environment Protection Agency, Department of Commerce, Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, Territorial Energy Office, Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management and Department of Port Administration initially, then joined by the Department of Education and Department of Agriculture. The Director of ODAPM became the Team Lead and BIL Coordinator. The goal is to have a concerted effort in maximizing the chance to apply to these federal funding opportunities as a team for the overall good and benefit of the people of American Samoa.

The BIL provided an increase in funding for the annual appropriated amounts on formula, cooperative agreement and competitive grants. These funds are awarded by the federal government to all Territorial departments serving as the state administrative agencies ensuring compliance in the utilization of these money.

Although the BIL lists the approximate amount of funding the Territories are eligible to apply for and allocated, there is a possibility of receiving more if competitive grant applications are approved and awarded.

Below is a list of 2022 BIL allocations, approved awards received and pending applications submitted on behalf of the American Samoa Government in support of President Biden’s commitment to rebuilding America’s critical infrastructure and addressing climate change in the

following six areas: Built Infrastructure, Nature Based Infrastructure, Broadband, Clean Water, Legacy Pollution and Energy.

American Samoa 2022 BIL allocations and awards:

ALLOCATIONS	RECEIVED	2022
Department	Amount	Purpose
DPW	\$4.6 M	Territorial Highway Program
AS EPA	\$30.8 M	ASPA Clean & Safe water program
ASPA	\$699,000.00	ASPA – prevent outages/power grid
DPA	\$800,000.00	Ports and Waterways
DPA	\$1.3 M	Airports improvement
DPA	\$873,334.00	Ferry Boat program
ASG	\$300,000.00	Infrastructure Resilience
ASG	\$1.5 M	Public Transportation
ASG	\$2.5 M	State Energy Program
ASG Broadband WG	\$1.5 M	Broadband Planning
TOTAL	44,872,334.00	
APPLICATIONS Submitted By BIL Team	APPROVED & AWARDED	2022
Department	Amount	Purpose
AS EPA	\$395,000.00	AS DOE Clean School Bus Rebate program
DMWR	\$824,261.94	DMWR – Swains Islands Tropical Ecosystem Restoration
DPA	\$2.1 M	Aunuu Wharf Reconstruction
DOC	\$1,673,100.00	LIDAR Mapping
TOTAL	\$4,992,361.94	
TOTAL ALLOCATION & GRANT AWARDS	\$49,864,695.94	
APPLICATIONS Submitted In 2022 By BIL Team	PENDING APPROVAL of AWARDS	2022
DPW	\$29.2 M	Shoreline Protection and Alternate Road proposal
ASTCA	\$13.5 M	Middle Mile proposal
ASTCA	\$5.5 M	Local Broadband Fiber Network
ASTCA	\$6.5 M	Mobile Broadband Expansion
TOTAL	\$54.7 M	

Not listed are all annual formula grants increase with BIL amounts received by local departments in FY 2022.

Office of Petroleum Management

From January 31st to September 31st 2022, the Office of Petroleum Management (OPM) has imported a total of 19,823,626 metric tons of quality fuel for the territory of American Samoa.

January 31st, 2022 – September 31st, 2022

Diesel	15,163,143 metric tons
Mogas	3,904,243 metric tons
Jet Fuel	755,011 metric tons
Kerosene	1,229 metric tons
Total	19,823,626 metric tons

For FY2022, the Office of Petroleum Management (OPM) collected a total of \$4,234,887.



ASG Property Insurance

As of November 2022, the ODAPM-ASG Property Insurance has successfully completed 90% of its 192 building surveys. Surveyed buildings include various ASG buildings and offices, the Governor and Lt. Governors residences, American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (27 facilities), LBJ Tropical Medical Center (18 facilities), and the American Samoa Community College (33 facilities). Additionally, the ODAPM, in its ongoing efforts to survey buildings under the Department of Education, has completed site visits for various schools located at the west and central areas of Tutuila at the time of this report. The next phase includes the east and outer islands of Tutuila, Manu'a, and Aunu'u.

Within the past year, the ODAPM has diligently performed its duties and responsibilities in alignment with the mandated functions pursuant to the Executive Order that established the office. The overarching and overreaching span of duties and responsibilities of this office have and continue to provide great benefits for safeguarding people's lives and the protection of properties of the people of American Samoa.

CDBG-DR (Disaster Recovery) Award – Tualauta Drainage System Project

On October 17, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved American Samoa's Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Action Plan to fund the Tualauta drainage project. With this approval, the Territory now has full access to its \$23million allocation since January 2020 to address the impacts of Tropical Storm Gita as a Presidential major declared disaster in February 2018. CDBG-DR funds are administered by the American Samoa Department of Commerce alongside its regular Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This Action Plan approval builds on HUD's partial consent from

January 2021 that gave the Territory access to only \$4.5million of the funding. A HUD Official also visited American Samoa in July of this year to verify the need for the proposed project, which led to an Action Plan substantial amendment for HUD’s review after completion of a 30- day public comment period. The approved funding will go exclusively towards the Tualauta Drainage Project, addressing the imminent demand for the infrastructure for American Samoa’s most densely populated area, given its significant impact from flooding during Tropical Storm Gita. This project will be a collaboration between the Departments of Commerce, Public Works, and the Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management.

CDBG-MIT (Mitigation) Funds – Fagaima Drainage System Project

The Annual Action Plan for the CDBG-Mitigation grant of approximately 4 million has been submitted for HUD for review and approval. This funding is proposed as a federal match for FEMA funds towards the Fagaima Drainage system which will eventually connect with the Tualauta drainage system.

Seawalls

The Department of Public Works continues to provide maintenance work and emergency repairs especially on drainage and shoreline work due to the effect of climate change on our island. To protect the inland region from wave action and prevent coastal erosion, rock walls or revetments are placed along the shoreline. The proper design and engineering of seawalls to address sea level rise in high wave energy coastal areas is a priority and an ongoing effort. Numerous priority shoreline protection projects are in the pipeline as rising sea levels and eroding coastlines is evident throughout our islands.

SEAWALL PROJECTS



Protection and Conservation Ongoing Departmental Efforts

This past year, the Administration has remained highly committed to administering and maintaining all of its coastal outreach and awareness efforts through its annual pledges such as DOC's Coast Week Programs, Island Wide Cleanup Initiative, and Wetland's conservation program.

2022 ESRI's User's Conference & Special Achievement Award in GIS

The Department of Commerce GIS staff continues to attend the annual users Conference to get specialized training, engage with sponsors and exhibitors, and network with fellow geospatial professionals from around the world. At this year's conference, the Resources Management Division (RMD) received the Special Achievement in GIS (SAG) award presented by President and Founder of ESRI, Jack Dangermond. RMD was one of the 197 projects chosen from more than 100,000 Esri clients worldwide.



2022 Coastweeks & 50th Anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act

The Resource Management Division once again coordinated another successful Coastweeks program with the Coastweeks theme “A Healthy Coast is a Wealthy Coast” focusing on increasing awareness of the value of the land use permitting system, wetlands, coastal hazards mitigation efforts, and the use of GIS tools for better decision making to strike the balance between our coastal heritage and economic prosperity.

This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of the Coastal Zone Management Act, and RMD emphasized these significant occasions through our Coastweeks media campaign. The 2022 Coastweeks Enhancement Strategy included the following programs: Coastweeks Church Service, Environmental Fair/Career Day, Paddle Challenge, Beach Volleyball Challenge, Coastal Stabilization Day, Geographic Information System (GIS) bootcamp, Project Notification & Review System (PNRS) workshops, Island Wide Coastal Cleanup, Family Coastal Activity Day and a Fireworks show.

ASCMP continues to strengthen its relationship with various local agencies and departments, private sectors, and federal partners over the years as evident in the participation and partnerships established and solidified during the 2022 Coastweeks.

2022 Family Coastal Activity Day

The overarching purpose of Family Coastal Activity Day is to demonstrate the value and benefits of the coasts by bringing the community together to enhance awareness and further understanding of the importance of conserving the natural resources within the coastal zone. RMD implements these initiatives through environmental and socioeconomic education and promoting coastal or outdoor recreational activities. Coastal recreation fosters the desire for a healthy coast.

Family Coastal Activity Day was a community-based event, and participants were required to register for the event and sign liability waivers for the water activities occurring in the ocean and outside environment. There were approximately 1850 participants for water activities while more than 1,200 participants for all other events, a total of more than 3,000 participants. However, more people showed up for the Fireworks show.

Governor’s Biodiversity and Conservation Office

FLOAS’ School Garden Initiative

The Office of the Honorable Ella Mauga, First Lady of American Samoa (FLOAS) currently collaborates with the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE), American Samoa Department of Agriculture (ASDOA), the Marching Band Initiative Team, and Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA) to achieve a major STEAM education activity of building learning gardens in schools. These educational activities will help to improve our schools by creating a learning environment in which needed intellectual resources can be developed through the effective use of our school facilities and environment as active teaching spaces and laboratories. The guiding vision of the Honorable First Lady Mauga’s is to provide ASDOE students with accessible outdoor classrooms with hands-on activities that are safe for them to experience *laufanua*-based and sustainability education, as well as science, ethnomathematics, technology, engineering, career and technical education (CTE), nutrition, and culinary education. The FLOAS’s *laufanua*-based education and stewardship opportunities will strengthen connections with the *fanua*, *aiga*, and village communities while also creating pathways for local-global servant leadership. The Hon. First Lady Ella Mauga believes in empowering STEAM education and place-based curriculum, teaching students to grow gardens, encouraging fitness and intentional living, and sharing the useful natural history and heritage information. This project is funded by the ASDOE and the Governor’s Office.



Invasive Bird Control Project

We use our “myna plantations” strategy to trap and attract invasive birds in several locations where large flocks of myna and bulbul birds have been discovered. We place up to 50 or more live traps in ‘myna plantation’ sites to attract a large and growing number of destructive alien birds. The good news is that our field experiment is successful. We captured and humanely dispatched **8,550** non-native birds in 2022. The Government Futiga landfill has always been our best trapping location, where we always trapped and disposed of these introduced bird populations. The Biodiversity Conservation staff at the Governor's Office are constantly improving our trapping methods to keep these unwanted exotic birds from invading the Manu'a Islands. There are no non-native myna or bulbul bird species in the Manu’a Islands.



African Tulip Tree Control

Despite the COVID lockdown, the field crew was able to remove 213 mature African Tulip trees from the Taputimu lowland agricultural areas, which are important to both subsistence and commercial farmers. The farmers were ecstatic to see the tulip populations disappear, as they were impeding the growth of their food crop plantations and vegetable gardens. The farmers do not have the resources or expertise to remove the rapidly growing tulip trees. Farmers



in Tutuila’s western district were grateful for our efforts to keep tulip tree populations from competing with their plantations and spreading into intact primary rainforests. Tulip trees can outcompete native vegetation and thrive in low-light environments. The only sure way to remove tulip tree populations is to use the Milestone herbicides. The tulip tree is not yet widely naturalized on Tutuila.

Vaipito Stream Cleanup

Heavy rains have strewn our Pago Pago harbor with various types of floating trash and debris. Unfortunately, it attracts the attention of residents and visitors to the town area. The crew carried out a number of operations along the Vaipito stream, stacking trash at the locations marked on the GIS map. A F250 truck hauled the trash, scrap metal, and debris to the Futiga Government Landfill for proper disposal. Several marine and aquatic fish species benefited from the Vaipito cleanup project.

Leone Wetland and Mangrove Restoration Project & Agroforestry Plant Giveaway to build resilient communities in American Samoa.

During Assistant Secretary Cantor’s recent visit to American Samoa, she announced \$389,025 in grant funding provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for the First Lady’s coastal wetlands revitalization project. The grant will be used to clean up the second largest wetland ecosystem in Leone village and replant more than 1,000 mangrove seedlings and riparian tree species to restore its degraded 20 acres of wetland and 8 acres of degraded mangrove rainforest areas. This restoration zone includes land that was impacted by the 2009 Tsunami. The fund will be used to propagate and distribute 20,000 salt-water-resistant agricultural crops, fruit trees, and multi-purpose native seedlings that can withstand future natural disasters. The project is being led by the Governor’s Biodiversity Conservation Office in collaboration with the Office of the First Lady of American Samoa, the American Samoa Department of Agriculture, the American Samoa Department of Education, the Office of Samoan Affairs and 54 local villages.



American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

Water Program Accomplishments

- Completed 12 village water assessments in collaboration with Hawaii Rural Water Association (HRWA) for Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Small and Disadvantaged Communities Grant (WIIN 2104). This grant is focused on the disadvantaged community with low income and without accessibility to potable drinking water. Assessments of all 12 village water systems were completed. Next step will be sampling for 24 contaminants to discover the cleanliness of the village water system. In addition, completing and writing up risk management plans and guidance manuals for village water systems.
- Lead Testing Grant (WIIN 2107): Completed assessments for all schools and day-cares in Tutuila. Assessment included the identification of sampling locations within each daycare and school facility. AS-EPA conducted the assessment with assistance from ASDOE and

DHSS. Next step will be logistical planning for assessments to be completed in Manu'a and to begin sampling periods.

- The Laboratory received a full year certification of extension to continue operation until a physical audit is completed. The virtual audit completed included a review of all lab records. Audit and interviews with the staff are in its planning phase.
- Completion of the Reef Flats Project Report 2022- The Reef Flat Project is an assessment of the Territory's water quality through the use of sampling designs, consistent monitoring and laboratory methods. This project first started in 2010 under the National Coastal Condition Assessments (NCA) and is conducted on a 5-year interval. With the 5-year interval assessment, changes that occur over time are easier to detect, which can also determine whether any restoration strategies or practices during that period were helpful or beneficial. Due to COVID restrictions in 2020, AS-EPA dealt with some logistical difficulties which delayed the completion of this project and Report. In 2022, AS-EPA, with the assistance from our other counterparts, has finally completed the final monitoring and assessment report for this Reef Flat Project.

Air & Land Accomplishments

- With the assistance of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US-EPA), the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) Pesticides Branch worked diligently to amend the American Samoa Pesticide Act. Such amendments were processed through the Rule Reform Officers and Panel. Currently, the package has been submitted to the Governor for his review and approval prior to submission to the Fono for review and approval as a bill. This is the first time the American Samoa Pesticides Act has been amended to reflect current branch needs since its inception in the early 1980s. The current amendments will increase the capacity of AS-EPA to expand its Pesticides certification program and enforcement actions for illegal pesticides and pesticides equipment importation and usage in the territory.
- In its efforts to ensure compliance of local waste management practices with local and federal solid waste relevant rules and laws, the AS-EPA Solid Waste Branch conducted 147 solid waste compliance inspections at businesses, private properties, and villages which resulted in the issuance of 93 warning notices, 31 citations, and 41 parties were found or brought to compliance. On the other hand, the Solid Waste Branch has officially completed the collection phase of e-waste for its initial shipment to a certified recycler off-island. In collaboration with the local contractor (M&S Transportation), large quantities of e-waste were collected from the local government. The e-waste stream ranged from large office printers to end-of-life tablet devices which filled up two 20-foot shipping containers. These containers will be shipped to a certified recycler shortly. The partnership between AS-EPA and commerce is the first of its kind in the waste stream removal area for the benefit of the territory which helps resolve a long-standing issue of e-waste accumulation without proper disposal.
- American Samoa was the first territory to receive an Environmental Justice grant under EPA's State Environmental Justice Cooperative Agreement program. American Samoa received a \$200,000 grant to purchase air quality monitoring equipment that will collect live air quality data. The air quality monitoring equipment will be arriving in Tutuila in early September and will be placed strategically throughout the island of Tutuila to collect live air quality data. The air quality data collected by such equipment is the first time the territory and AS-EPA will have collected this type of data. This data will be made available to the public to assist in making decisions about the daily activities that can be held

considering the air quality condition within certain areas of the island. This data will also be made available to students of the Finafinau Group and all other interested parties for science projects and other project related activities.

Environment Awareness and Education Division

- In commemoration of the 34th year since establishment, the American Samoa EPA launched the “RECYCLE TODAY FOR A GREENER TOMORROW” recycling program in October 2021 to promote green behavior in public and private high schools across the island territory. The strong partnership between the AS-EPA and participating schools has led to the collection of more than 400 lbs of aluminum beverage cans that are compressed and shipped off-island for recycling. The program continues to promote cleanliness and change in how students behave towards the environment.
- In the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak in the territory, the AS-EPA ensured the continued purpose of providing quality environmental education to high school students through the inaugural launch of the Lumana’i Initiative in April 2022. The initiative coincided with Earth Day 2022 and provided upcoming and outgoing high school students with the opportunity to learn about the various elements of environmental protection which stretched from scientific/field research to policy development and regulatory enforcement. The hope of the initiative is to expose upcoming college students to the AS-EPA’s scope of work with the hope of their academic pursuit in STEAM-related fields.
- Communication is the most crucial element in disseminating information to the general public. The AS-EPA continues to develop new techniques through the employment of available resources to ensure the public’s awareness of the various environmental concerns. AS-EPA has received a lot of feedback on the rapid response of the 24hr emergency response team to open burning and oil spill complaints. Through weekly advisories and outreach programs on Facebook, radio, and television, the AS-EPA has been able to acquaint members of the community to not only report violations but also to avoid practices that may hinder environmental quality.

Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources

The Shore-based Creel Survey: accomplished 182 sampled dates, conducted 249 surveys, and 682 completed runs along the Tutuila and Manu’a islands coastlines in 261 Weekdays and 51 Weekends/holidays of this Fiscal Year. The monitoring team recorded 256 Participation counts and 118 Interview catch data. The data analysis represents the expanded estimates of our local subsistence and recreational fisheries through statistical survey protocols of this period. The information collected is also used to describe or define the different trends and conditions of our marine fishery resources over time.

The following table is a summary of the field data, collected from a diversity of fishing techniques applied by our local nearshore fishermen along with catch totals observed in shore-based creel surveys from October 1st, 2021 through September 30th, 2022.

Expanded Catch/Effort Summary:

2021-2022	Spearfishing	Rod and Reel	Gleaning	ThrowNet	GillNet(A)	Enu(traps)
Oct-Sep.	4,752lbs	14,318lbs	5,256lbs	1,292lbs	306lbs	6,323lbs

Total expansions from October 2021 – September 2022

Catch(lbs)	Gear-Hrs	Catch/Gear-Hrs
32,247lbs	13,643hrs	2.36lbs



Sportfish Life History Program: The program aims to determine the genetic relatedness of fish stocks between American Samoa and Samoa for 3 representative species (the malau *Myripristis berndti*, alogo *Acanthurus lineatus* and fuga *Scarus oviceps*). The species were selected as they are abundant and targeted in both American Samoa and Samoa. Staff collected at least 30 samples for each species from each of the islands of Upolu, Savaii and Tutuila. Samples were sent and analyzed by project partner Australian Genome Research Facility. The DNA was extracted from the fin of each fish and the microsatellite DNA was extracted and analyzed. The genetic analyses indicated that the populations in Upolu, Savaii and Tutuila for the 3 species were related. This suggests that both American Samoa and Samoa are fishing the same fish populations of these 3 fish species and that ideally management for these species need to be coordinated.

*Myripristis berndti**Scarus oviceps**Acanthurus lineatus*

FAD Deployment: Successfully deployed 4 FADs; however, one was lost. FAD B in Pago Pago harbor, FAD C in Vaitogi, and FAD E in Fagasa. These FADs are inspected and maintained monthly. Also deployed satellite buoys in FAD B and C. The satellite buoy images indicate that these FADs are effective in aggregating skipjacks, bigeye and yellowfin tunas. 6 FAD units have also been ordered this year. Staff led two fishing tournaments this year in coordination with the Pago Pago Game Fishing Association and the Department of Commerce during the Healthy Coast, Wealthy Coast celebration.



FAD C off Vaitogi



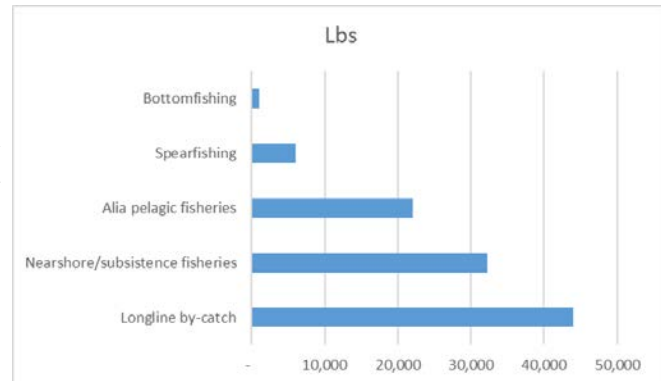
FAD B off Pago Pago Harbor

Boat-based creel program: Program staff recorded activity of 6 alia boats targeting pelagic fish for the whole year, landing around 22,000 lbs of pelagic fish. The top species was skipjack tuna with around 18,000 lbs. On the other hand, the commercial invoice system showed over 44,000 lbs of pelagic fish sold by commercial vendors. The top pelagic fish was black marlin at 19,000

lbs, wahoo at over 8,000 lbs, yellowfin tuna at 3,000 lbs and swordfish at 1,900 lbs. The latter species are by-catch and non-target fish of longlining boats emphasizing the importance of this fish supply for the local community.

Approximately three alia boats were involved in spearfishing and landed over 6,000 lbs of reef fish. Around 2,700 lbs were parrotfish, 1,500 lbs were surgeonfish. And 500 lbs of lobster were caught. Approximately 1,000 lbs of bottomfish was caught this year by three alia boats. Red gill emperor accounted for 200 lbs, gray jobfish 200 lbs, humpback snapper 200 lbs, red snapper 180 lbs and ruby snapper 130 lbs. Bottom Fishing has drastically declined in recent years probably due to the lingering effect of COVID-19 on crew availability, decreasing participation and high costs of operations.

Fisheries landings in American Samoa for FY 21-22. Data indicate that longline by-catch accounting for 45% of fish consumed followed by nearshore subsistence fishing at 35%.



The Key Reef Species Program completed its annual monitoring surveys in the following areas:

Tutuila Reef Flat and Reef Slope Survey

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1) Reef Flat survey in Alofau | 1) Reef slope survey in Alofa |
| 2) Reef Flat survey in Aoa | 2) Reef slope survey in Auto |
| 3) Reef Flat Survey in Aua | 3) Reef slope survey in Fagaitua |
| 4) Reef Flat survey in Auto | 4) Reef slope survey in Aoa |
| 5) Reef Flat Survey in Faga'alu | 5) Reef slope survey in Aua |
| 6) Reef Flat Survey in Sailele | 6) Reef slope survey in Faga'alu |
| 7) Reef Flat survey in Amanave | 7) Reef slope survey in Nu'uuli |
| 8) Reef flat survey in Faga'alu | |
| 9) Reef flat survey in Nu'uuli | |



Giant Clams Research Project: DMWR Coordinated research on giant clams with University of Hawaii researchers Paolo Marra-Biggs and Dr. Rob Toonen. Mr. Biggs finished giant clam surveys in Manu'a and Rose and collected samples for genetic analyses. The data analyses conducted by Mr. Biggs and DMWR indicated that the Tau and the Manua Islands followed by Rose have the highest densities of giant clams. The data also indicate that there is low density of giant clams in Swains which indicates that fishing pressure is not the only factor affecting clam abundance. Other factors are habitat, watershed quality and climate. In general, American Samoa still has a relatively higher abundance of giant clams in the South Pacific. Mr. Biggs also discovered a new species of giant clam in American Samoa, *Tridana noae*, extending its distribution to this part of the Pacific.



(Photo by Paolo Marra-Biggs)

The Community-based Fisheries Management Program in the coastal villages of American Samoa, conducted an awareness and educational meeting held on the 22nd November at the Office of Samoan Affairs in the presence of all village mayors in Tutuila and Manu'a. The main objective was to provide a general overview/reminder of the importance of the MPA/CFMP program and the commitment of DMWR to re-visit and implement the program in participating villages. Following this meeting, the village councils of three coastal villages on Tutuila island decided to re-join the program. This was achieved through initial consultations of DMWR staff with village councils over the months and sealed with the signing of the cooperative agreements on the 29th June 2022 at DMWR office. The three villages are Sa'ilele, Amanave and Faga'alu and work is underway for effective implementation of program objectives, including more participation from other coastal villages as work progresses.

Scuba dive open water certification: Certification of three staff with the PADI scuba dive open water certification. The training was conducted in Apia from August 8th-12th 2022 and included a two-day online theory class followed by four days of practical skills in the pool and out in the open ocean water. The main objective of the certification training is to have fully equipped and qualified divers to assist with biological monitoring surveys.



United States Forest Service Forest Legacy Program: DMWR was officially designated as the lead agency for this program.

Beached Whale Response: DMWR staff responded to a dead, stranded Cuvier's Beaked Whale carcass on the beach in Tula Village. Scientific samples were preserved and the remains of the whale were buried on the beach.



Bollard Installation: A Series of New Heavy Duty Cast Iron Bollards (Cleats) were installed at the DMWR Malaloa Bulkhead facility Marina. Newly installed Cast Iron Bollards assist Fishing vessels in docking.

Security fence Installment: Installed a 200 FT Length 8 FT High Chain Link Security Fence with heavy duty widened man gate at the DMWR Malaloa Marina to replace severely damaged security fence. This will assist security measures for boats that utilize the facility.



“Swains Island (AS) Tropical Ecosystem Restoration Planning for Invasive Mammal Eradication and Rainforest Realignment”: The Wildlife Division proposed and was awarded a grant for the project “Swains Island (AS) Tropical Ecosystem Restoration Planning for Invasive Mammal Eradication and Rainforest Realignment”

under the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) in the amount of \$864,300.

Fisheries Assistance Funding: DMWR received confirmation of additional fisheries assistance funding provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The funding will support activities previously authorized under Sec. 12005 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). This second round allocation for American Samoa is \$2,953,444.16, and will benefit marine fishery participants who have been negatively affected by COVID-19 in 2021. DMWR has submitted all applications to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and NOAA for their review. It is anticipated that relief checks will be distributed to eligible fishery participants in the first quarter of 2023.

School Outreach Programs: DMWR reached about 3,500 different audiences ranging from 6-78 years during outreach activities to schools and communities across Tutuila and Manu'a. These outreach were performed to enhance awareness of communities regarding marine and wildlife resources in the territory.

Marine Science Summer Course: DMWR completed its Marine Science Summer Course for local high school students.

Offshore Fishing Tournament: DMWR completed 2 Offshore Fishing Tournaments in Manua and 1 in Tutuila.

Grants: DMWR has successfully managed all grants that are awarded to DMWR in the year. Federal grants received in the amount of 11 Million. Processed and successfully reimbursed about 5.1M.

Fagaalu Village Watershed: Graduated the Fagaalu Village Watershed as the 1st watershed site in the United States and its territories to complete all the requirements needed to effectively manage its watershed. Fagaalu village mayor accepted the recognition on behalf of Fagaalu Village at the U.S Coral Reef Task Force Meeting. Honorable Lt. Governor Talauega Ale was also recognized on behalf of the American Samoa Government agencies that collaborated in co-management efforts.

Food Security

Uncontrollable factors such as trade agreements, labor disputes, climate change, and American Samoa's limited natural resources and remote location have made the local economy more vulnerable and necessitates the implementation of comprehensive plans for a more resilient Territory that can support its economy and protect the general welfare of our people. The Lemanu-Talauega Administration continues to prioritize food security and safety, as evidenced by its support for agricultural programs.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture's (DOA) mission is to ensure the means of support that is required to protect, educate and assist local farmers. To reduce the Territory's reliance on imported goods, the DOA continues to invest extensively in programs emphasizing sustainability and the localization of crops.

Farm Fairs

As with the previous year, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) continues to host Farm Fairs for farmers and the public as an incentive in hopes of sparking the interest of residents to grow more locally grown produce and become less dependent on imported products. DOA successfully conducted its first ever mini-Farm Fair for Valentines to bring in the Gardeners or Plant Farmers within the agricultural community. This was a very successful event as many gardeners or plant farmers are a different type of farmer that's been neglected throughout the years. The DOA hosted this farm fair to invite all gardeners to display, sell and educate the buyers on their variety of locally grown plants.



DOA successfully conducted its Second Farm Fair in October commemorating the traditional and celebrated "Mosooi" festival. There were about 105 registered farmers including food vendors who participated as well.



Farm Compliance

Farm Compliance is still being conducted by the Compliance Officer ensuring the safety of locally grown produce in accordance with USDA and EPA regulations. Many local farms are visited by the ASG DOA compliance officer who is also in charge of issuing Compliance Certificates for their Plantations or Farms. These are not only for crops but also for livestock, pig farms in specific. Accomplishments are indicative with the amount of Certificates issued out on a monthly to a quarterly and an annual basis by the Compliance officer which currently is in the high 400's.

Closed and Resolved Federal Awards

As shown in exhibit below, there were a total of Three (2) old grants that have now been resolved with amendments pending the Federal Grantors review and approval to reimburse DOA's outstanding Accounts Receivables.

American Samoa Government - Department of Agriculture

Old Troubled Grants 2018 - 2019

Award Date & Year	Resolved Grant Projects	Amount	Term	Expiration Date
1 11/19/2018	AM180100XXXXG040	\$283,699.85	3 years	9/29/2021
2 9/16/2019	AM190100XXXXG059	\$282,186.41	3 years	9/29/2022

In resolving issues for the said grants, DOA Grants Manager worked closely with Federal Grantors to ascertain proper procedures and submit outstanding performance reports due to Grantors to still procure funds to reimburse ASG monies for each of the project expenditures. As requested by the Federal Grantors. DOA is currently providing and submitting the required reporting and amendments to procure funds from these projects per correspondences between DOA and Federal Grantors.

DOA Active Grants Federally Awarded

Award Date & Year	Active Grants	Amount	Term	Expiration Date	
1	9/25/2020	AM20SCBPAS007-00 - Hydroponics	\$282,679.16	3 years	9/29/2023
2	10/9/2020	AM20MGFSPAS0134-00 – Micro-Grants	\$121,159.00	4 years	9/29/2024
3	8/20/2021	2021-70035-35799 – Farmers De-stress	\$500,000.00	1 year	8/31/2022
4	9/7/2021	21MGFSPAS1002-00 – Micro-Grants	\$133,002.50	4 years	9/29/2025
5	9/15/2021	21SCBPAS1030-00 – Specialty Crop Phase II	\$268,786.53	3 years	9/29/2024
6	9/15/2021	21SCBPAS1071-00 -Specialty Crop Phase I	\$357,277.56	4 years	9/29/2025
7	9/30/2022	AM22SCBPAS1138-00 – Specialty Crop	\$268,789.59	3 years	09/29/2025
8	9/30/2022	AM22MGFSPAS1010-01- Micro-Grants	\$142,857.14	4 years	09/29/2026
9	07/20/2022	CFDA NO.15.875 – Soil and Residual Testing research program	\$423,000.00	3 years	09/30/2025
			\$2,497,551.48		

A combined Total of Federal Awards in the amount of \$2,497,551.48 (2.4M) within the months of July, August and September, 2022. An accomplishment for the ASG DOA in receiving federal awards for the new fiscal year.

DOA received an Award from the DOE’s American Relief Program Grant. DOA was approved on February 15, 2022 for the proposed \$3.5M to conduct its Proposed Manu'a Agriculture Paradigm Shift (MAPS) Project. Though it is not included in the list of Active Federal Awards in Exhibit D, however, at the moment, DOA is connecting with DOE for the processing of documents to ensure the workflow for the proposed project will be followed through accordingly. There have been some changes that have been implemented towards the project therefore, DOA will be providing necessary amendments to ascertain allowable costs under this award. Anticipating personnel hires for both Manu’a and Tutuila, construction of structures to include a laboratory and classroom in part of the educational outreach program to be conducted by the agriculture department.

Aside from the Federal Awards Granted to the ASG DOA, the DOA were also fortunate to have received funding and or financial assistance from the Governor’s Special Programs or the Farm Subsidy \$100,000.00 including a Supplemental Budget of \$300,000.00.

DOA FARMS2-Helpline Call Center Training

The inflow of new DOA Federal Awards allowed the DOA to hire on 12 contract employees under its Farmers De-Stress Federal Grant Project to establish an Agriculture Call Center that would assist Farmers with agricultural inquiries concerning farming resources ranging from pig feed, farming supplies, tools and resources inclusive of pesticides, herbicides and viable yet legal chemicals to aid their farming activities. This was the sense of relief or technical support the farmers would be receiving from the Agri Call Center Operators/Dispatchers who were not limited to just take these calls but direct calls to appropriate authorities with professional expertise in terms of mental health issues and suicide.



Successful Execution of Training the DOA Call Operators and Dispatchers including the DHSS and DPH's Call Operators and Dispatchers, a total of about 25 Trainees completed their 3-Day Training. To this day, the ASG DOA has the 699-2474 to assist the farmers with their inquiries and or to direct Stress & Suicide calls to the DHSS and DPH's *988/988 Suicide Helpline. A collaborative effort that's now established an Agriculture direct line for technical support for the farmers.

Specialty Crop Grant

The ASG DOA was also awarded with the Specialty Crop Grant which allowed the opportunity to hire on Two (2) more contract workers specifically for the sole purpose of this Grant project and Grant Writer/Manager satisfying report for the long-awaited Hydroponics Grant Project that allowed the DOA to receive its Vertical Hydroponic Systems to be finally shipped to American Samoa. Displayed is the DOA's Hydroponic System demonstration of the 50-Approved Vertical Hydroponic Systems to be distributed to 49 Applicants of the DOA's Vertical Hydroponic System with the 1 demo on the Agriculture compound. Throughout the early months of 2022, the DOA Extension Division successfully distributed and installed all 50-Vertical Hydroponic systems across Tutuila.



Hydroponic Project Inspection

The Vertical Hydroponic System is an ideal project for many locals because not too many residents have lands of their own and the challenges of farming on other family's properties can be costly and can create friction and disagreements. Therefore, the vertical hydroponic system was and is the best approach to finding creative ways of farming avoiding any of the known issues to surface within our local agricultural community concerning farming on family farmlands. Inspections of hydroponic projects went well; most project owners are done with harvests. Hydroponics projects are from the following locations: Ausi, Alega, Aua, Pago Pago, Nu'uuli, Amanave, Asili, Leone, Vaitogi, Ili'ili, Fogagogo, and Ottoville.



Federal Award for Hoop Houses/GreenHouses for Diversification of crops

The ASG DOA was awarded another Federal Award for Hoop Houses/GreenHouses for Diversification of crops. The common crops or commodities are taro, breadfruit and bananas; there is not much of a variety we can find locally to diversify vegetation within our community. Therefore, the Hoop House/GreenHouse Federal Grant project afforded the ASG DOA to acquire 25 Hoop House systems for the farming community. As with each project system, the ASG DOA must have one on its compound as it is also a revival of what the DOA Department lacked in previous years. 24 Hoop Houses were successfully distributed by the DOA Extension Division in just 3-days of distribution from the far East down to mid-West for the applicants of this project.

Hoop House Project Inspection

Two Greenhouses have been completely built. Participants of the Hoop house project are underway while others have already started planting a variety of seeds from cucumber and tomatoes. Hoop houses were distributed to participants from the following locations: Auasi, Alega, Aua, Pago Pago, Vaitogi, Futiga, Tafuna, Ottoville and Tafeta.



Federal Micro Grant for Livestock Farming

The DOA demo of the Federally Approved 8x16 structure to house Four (4) piglets to be sustained, developed and produced throughout the tenure of this grant. The structure, including the piglets, tools to maintain the structure and piglets along with pig feed are federally funded through this Federal Award. There will be a total of a combined 51-subrecipients who will be awarded with this project as the ASG DOA were awarded with Two (2) Micro Grants for the Pig Farm not including the Poultry Farm that the ASG DOA was also awarded with that is to follow after the Pig Farm establishment, disbursement of funds to each of the selected applicant who will have met all requirements specified on the Micro Grant application for the Pig Farm.



Pig Feed Sale

The DOA also successfully acquired One (1) container of Pig Feed from its NIFA Grant that was sold to all registered and unregistered farmers at the affordable price of \$20 for 10 bags to the registered farmers per week and \$25 to the unregistered farmers for a maximum of 5 bags a week. 799 total bags were sold.

Talomua” Project

The DOA initiated a project that included local farmers with plantations of the “Tiapula” or “Giant Taro” to partner up with the ASG DOA. Each of the local farmers would provide the DOA with Giant Taros to be distributed to the interested local farmers or participants to grow, maintain and harvest their distributed giant taros by the next season of harvest to be redistributed or sold to the general community for consumption purposes and for expansion purposes to sustain the growth of giant taros in American Samoa. The growth in particular will determine the sufficiency of supply that is provided locally and not from overseas. In terms of import substitution, how reliable can our local farmers become with sustaining a vast amount of giant taros in American Samoa. The ASG DOA coordinators successfully distributed giant taros to its participants and await harvest in the new year around the month of March or so of 2023.



Quarantine Division

The DOA Quarantine division continues to execute their daily and evening tasks with their Plant and Animal Quarantine inspections not including the issuance of permits for all travelers bringing and taking goods, foods and objects in and out of the territory. This is one of the major accomplishments the DOA provides for the territory as a whole; ensuring the security and safety of all imports and exports. DOA has received multiple Quarantine Permits, Certificates and Others with an accumulated total for the combined months of January through September 2022 at 1,970 visitors. This information determines the fluctuated flow of traffic in and out of the Agriculture department.

The ASG DOA and the Independent Government of Samoa are now working together to ensure the safety of imports/exports between the two Samoan Islands. The ASG DOA has signed an agreement for all travelers from Samoa to American Samoa as a trial for the next Six (6) months to be allowed to import meat, poultry, crops and cook foods from Samoa.

Iiili Plantation Maintenance & Management

Cleared and extended plantation plot for Organic farming. Successfully removed Malvaceae (Fau tree) and planted about 110 Taro Plants.

Agriculture Greenhouse Maintenance

- Transplanted 75 koa trees at the new Vaitogi Park (ocean side)
- Transplanted 27 papaya trees to the Organic farm in Iliili

Manu'a Division

Ta'u, Manu'a

Tremendous help from the team in Ofu/Olosega regards to the plantation here in Ta'u. Planted shipment of Giant Taro (Tiapula) from Pago Pago, Agriculture main office. Cuttings of about 75 Tapioca and maintenance with the Ta'u compound.



Ofu, Manu'a

Ofu, Manu'a division maintained its already planted crops. Challenges are commonly the unpredictable weather, bugs and insects to be studied and further researched for prevention to sustain the growth of the different crops locally grown on the island of Ofu, Manu'a.



State of Security

Department of Public Safety

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) during 2022, has continued its duties and responsibilities to the people of American Samoa by serving and protecting life and property. DPS responded to 1403 criminal cases, 748 cases of assistance, and 820 motor vehicle accidents. During January 2022, American Samoa was finally affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic, DPS was tasked with numerous other ASG government agencies in slowing and preventing rapid spread of the COVID-19 Virus in our Territory. The collaboration of all ASG Departments was a success in reducing the rapid spread of the disease and minimizing death caused by the pandemic.

On June 15, 2022, Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga signed Executive Order No. 004-2022, to separate the Tafuna Correctional Facility (TCF) from DPS and stand alone as the Department of Corrections. On the same date Governor Lemanu signed Executive Order No. 005-2022, establishing the Department of Search and Rescue, separating the Fire Bureau and Marine Patrol Division from DPS and EMS from the LBJ Tropical Medical Center to form the new agency.

The Ledge Light Technology (LLT) Inc. arrived in American Samoa on October 20, 2022, to upgrade the READ ID equipment at the Office of Motor Vehicle (OMV) and provide training for the OMV staff. The READ ID Driver License and ID Cards will allow U.S. Citizen and U.S. Nationals residing in our Territory to go through TSA Checkpoints at airports and Federal buildings and facilities. The Department of Public Safety will launch the REAL ID driver license and ID cards on December 5, 2022.

Department of Legal Affairs

The Department of Legal Affairs has oversight and is charged with the mandate of enforcing local laws and regulating entry into the Territory. Protecting our border security is a combined effort with Public Safety, Port Administration, Homeland Security and Agriculture. It remains a priority of the Administration to protect and ensure overall safety of the general public. The Department of Legal Affairs also spends a significant number of resources and time offering legal sound advice and assistance to other line and support agencies.

The following table is a breakdown of cases handled throughout the year 2022 by the Attorney General's Office:

Divisions	QTR 1	QTR 2	QTR 3	QTR 4	TOTAL
Criminal Division	4,376	3,566	3,229	2,949	14,120
Civil Division	499	300	269	366	1,434
Travel Division	1202	683	2,450	3342	7,677

DLA Program Accomplishments:

ARPA Funding Awarded: The Department of Legal Affairs was awarded \$90,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Oversight Office for the Public Building CDC project in

response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Attorney General accepted and signed the award certification agreement on August 3, 2022.

PIDC Conference: The Assistant Chief Immigration Officer and Senior Immigration represented DLA at the 2022 Pacific Immigration Development Community Conference in Nadi, Fiji. The ACIO and Sr. Immigration Officer attended the PIDC conference from August 4, 2022 to August 10, 2022.

TalofaPass New Hires: The Certificate of Identity (CI)/Travel Division has two new hires to assist the public and travelers with questions, concerns, and requests about TalofaPass, they are also trained on processes of OK Boards and the issue of CIs.

DLA New Computer Programmer: The Department of Legal Affairs has hired a Computer Programmer to lead and supervise the Digitization Program project funded by the Department of Interior as the Digitization Supervisor during the fiscal year 2021.

Digitization Program Vacant Position Filled: The Digitization Program has hired three qualified applicants on July 25, 2022 to fill the three vacant Digitization Specialist positions. The Digitization program was established in fiscal year 2021 to assist with the transition of manual paper use to electronic for direct accessibility of files for the Immigration Division in their daily operations.

Office of the Public Defender

The Office of the Public Defender provides legal representation to indigent criminal defendants in misdemeanor, felony, traffic, immigration and juvenile cases, and other matters as directed and appointed by the Court.

Year 2022, was challenging for the PD's office as they were staffed with only two lawyers and by March 2022, former Public Defender Michael White was the only attorney in the PD's Office tending to cases in both District Court and High Court. In June 2022, Michael White resigned. As with all other specialized fields, the Public Defender's office is not immune to workforce shortages. The Territory has and continues to face the challenges of inadequate specialized staff (lawyers, doctors, engineers etc.) to fully service our constituents. The Lemanu-Talauega Administration has prioritized and implemented salary increases for specialized fields as a way to hire and retain critical staff. In July, David Vargas was appointed Acting Public Defender and later approved by the Fono. Since being appointed, the new Public Defender has been able to outsource over 100 cases to local private attorneys to assist the PD's Office. The following has been accomplished by the Office of the Public Defender:

- The Public Defender's Office has secured temporary contracts with four (4) local private attorneys to provide legal representation to 105 indigent clients. A local Assistant Public Defender will be fully on board by Mid-January 2023.
- Federal funding has been secured to hire an Investigator/Interpreter and is ready to be filled.

- Federal funding has been secured to facilitate the move of the Office of the Public Defender from the EOB to the Tedi of Samoa Building. Projected move out date is February 2023.
- Federal Funding secured to purchase and implement a case management system database. (Purchase Pending)

The following table is a breakdown of cases handled by the Office of the Public Defender:

Active Case Load	January 2022 to July 2022	687 pending cases
	July 2022 to November 2022	162 pending criminal cases 26 juvenile cases
Dismissed Cases	January 2022 to July 2022	54 Criminal cases
	July 2022 to November 2022	9 Criminal cases 6 Juvenile cases
Closed Cases (Plea bargain)	July 2022 – November 2022	13 Traffic cases
	January 2022 to July 2022	157 criminal cases
	July 2022 – November 2022	3 criminal cases
	January 2022 to July 2022	2 juvenile cases
Clients Visits	At Tafuna Correctional Facility	(July 2022 to November 2022) 120
	At the Office of the Public Defender (EOB)	(July 2022 to November 2022) 85

Department of Homeland Security

The American Samoa Department of Homeland Security (ASDHS) is the central coordinating agency for the American Samoa Government with Federal, State, Tribal, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Religious denominations in response to Natural or Man-Made Disasters through its Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Department provides disaster and technical assistance through the TEMCO and law enforcement via OTICIDE to combat terrorism in all forms, white collar crime, human trafficking, and the distribution and sale of illegal narcotics. The Department serves as the custodian of records through the Office of Vital Statistics (OVS) for all birth and death certificates, divorce records and other sensitive decrees. Additionally, the Department delivers intelligence products and services through the Fusion Center to agencies on a no-cost basis including civil and criminal investigations, leadership development and training, supporting organizational assessments, and training and management assistance. The Department also delivers services and federal funding assistance to Non-for-Profit (NGO) Organizations.

Tsunami Early Warning System:

TEMCO continues to provide outreach to local partners and stakeholders as a way to provide emergency coordination to members of the general public. Outreach opportunities were delivered to schools, churches and private organizations. These outreach opportunities

provide valuable information to the public on how to prepare for disasters and emergency situations.

The tsunami siren alert system is currently 90% Operable at this time, this is largely due to the collaborated effort of AS Power Authority, AS Telecommunications, and AS Homeland Security while the Department is coordinating closely with American Signal Corporation (ASC), and the arrival of equipment and spare parts, to rehabilitate long standing sirens that are due routine maintenance (siren heads, solar panels, batteries, etc.) from deterioration from natural elements since the loosening of travel restrictions into American Samoa.

ASDHS continues to conduct operational meetings with key players from each ASG departments and civilian agencies to help identify and mitigate any or all challenges during its planning & response. These operations have led to the improved response time for each ASG department and civilian agencies. A big part of these missions is the continued support and participation of all partners. Regular planning and operations meetings are scheduled to discuss issues and how we can formulate a better and more streamlined approach to Repatriation Efforts. To date, the department maintains the following:

- EOC Radio Activated Sirens: 30
- Push-Button Activated Sirens: 21
- Inoperable Sirens: 6
- Combined Total of Operable Sirens: 51

Emergency Operations Center COVID-19 Expenditures:

ASDHS' continues to receive and process all EOC requests that are COVID-19 related to ensure that they are filtered to the proper ASG Departments and Agencies. TEMCO continues and maintains their 24/7 watch responsibilities that provides the first line of response to the territory in the event of an emergency. Another major accomplishment is the EOC Retrofit Project, which will see a more modern Emergency Operations Center when it is completed. The new EOC will provide for a more cohesive and streamlined response to all emergency events.

Office of Territorial & International Criminal Intelligence and Drug Enforcement (OTICIDE)

OTICIDE exists as a multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional task force for the purpose of enhancing interagency coordination and intelligence gathering to facilitate interagency and multi-jurisdictional investigations. Furthermore, OTICIDE was designated as the lead investigative agency for illegal drug trafficking and human trafficking with its functions to include but are not limited to:

1. Gathering and analyzing intelligence information regarding drug trafficking and human trafficking affecting the Territory and provide access to disseminate information to law enforcement officers with legitimate law enforcement need,
2. Coordinate control of enforcement activities regarding drug trafficking and human trafficking with federal, state, territorial and local law enforcement agencies and coordinate enhanced intelligence sharing and investigative efforts, 3) Perform other

law enforcement functions and conduct investigations as designated by the Governor in accordance with existing law.

Federal and International Law Enforcement Systems which are under the direct oversight of OTICIDE continue to provide ample and needed personal and criminal background information to assist with our local government employment hiring process. These systems assist law enforcement officers with their on-going investigations, and it also provides our court systems with pre-sentencing reports for court review.

- National Criminal Intelligence Center (NCIC) – FBI operated system
- National Law Enforcement Telecommunication System (NLETS)
- INTERPOL I-24/7 System – American Samoa is a Sub-Bureau of the United States National Central Bureau (USNCB) US INTERPOL. INTERPOL consists of 194 member countries in the world.

The Governor's continued Declaration of Health Emergency for COVID-19 allowed OTICIDE to employ additional Security Officers to assist with OTICIDE's mission in assisting DOH with providing security detail for all quarantine sites as well as their vaccination campaign. Presently, OTICIDE is in the early stages of procuring a Marine Patrol Raptor Boat for Emergency Search & Rescue as well as providing Drug Enforcement through federal funding from FEMA.

Real ID Act Compliance

Since February 8, 2018, following the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Gita, the Department of Homeland Security in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety partnered with LedgeLight Technologies to satisfy statutory requirements of the Real ID Act for the Territory of American Samoa. This system was designed by LLT with funding support by the American Samoa Government and US Office of Insular Affairs through the Technical Assistance Program

While the COVID-19 pandemic limited travel for LLT and federal partners to complete their review and validation process earlier on in the year, American Samoa is 100% Completed with Real ID and began issuing Real ID cards to qualified residents and citizens of American Samoa and the United States on December 5, 2022. This success is due to the collective efforts and partnership of the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Public Safety and the Office of the Attorney General.

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

Office of the Homeland (OHS) Division is responsible for the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) is one of the three grant programs that constitute the DHS/FEMA focus on enhancing the ability of state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, as well as nonprofits, to prevent, prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorist attacks. These grant programs are part of a comprehensive set of communities against potential terrorist attacks. Among the five basic homeland security missions noted in the DHS Strategic Plan, HSGP supports the goal to Strengthen National Preparedness and Resilience. Program Accomplishments are as follows:

Susana Uesile Methodist Church's Security Fence

This project entails the purchasing and installation of the Susana Uesile's Church's security fence to wrap around their church compound with attached security gates. Phase I of this project includes the installation of the security gates at the points of entries (2) at the front side of the compound.

Activities: 2 steel dual swinging driveway fence gates each with 1 door service installed at the 2 entry points at the front side of the Susana Uesele compound.

Results: Gates are attached onto existing wall/fence. This project was fully executed in August 2022.



Security Surveillance Cameras at the Pago Pago International Airport -- DOT-Custom's Division

Activities: 18 video cameras and associated equipment/accessories were installed at the Pago Pago International Airport (Baggage Conveyor) under the DOT-Customs division's management and use.

Results: This project was fully executed and Certificate of Completion was signed in February 2022.



Office of Public Information – KVZK TV

This project includes the purchase of standby generators for the Office of Public Information-KVZK TV.

Activities: 5 generators were purchased based on OPI/KVZK's operational needs.

Results: Receiving report was signed in August 2022

Office of Vital Statistics

The Office of Vital Statistics under the Department of Homeland Security and its functions and responsibilities are described under Title 13, Chapter 5, of the ASCA. It is also in the Title 8 establishment of the local Civil Defense as one of the main four (4) offices under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security in the American Samoa Code Annotated.

The Office of Vital Statistics (herein referred to as OVS) secured a high-security record paper to be used in the issuance of any vital record in its custody of records. OVS in its daily operations since the new administration, managed to issue out:

- Birth Certificates: 620
- Death Certificates: 322
- Marriage & License: 152
- Identification Cards: 350
- Clergy Registration: 6
- Affidavit Verifications: 202

OVS is actively pursuing resolution for the acquisition and procurement of software and hardware to scan and store records under its custody.

American Samoa Department of Corrections

On June 15, 2022, Governor Lemanu signed Executive Order 004-2022 to establish the American Samoa Corrections Agency as an independent agency within the Executive Branch. The Executive Order remained in effect until PL 37-14 established the Department Corrections to allow focus attention to corrections and rehabilitation to improve the security of our community. (GL00979) The Territorial Correctional Facility and Juvenile Detention Center (previously under Department of Public Safety) are now under the authority of the newly established Department. The Corrections Agency is responsible for the safety and security of persons who are lawfully detained or committed to its care and the newly assigned Warden has assumed responsibility of inmates and juvenile detainees that were once committed to the Department of Public Safety. The newly formed department of Corrections updates for year 2022 are as follows:

- Silver contractor currently resolving drainage issues inside the new maximum cell building. The contractor is also replacing new steel gage locks in order to meet security requirements.
- ASPA completed installation of a new water pump to support water pressure for the new maximum cell building.
- Continue to improve inmate care with medical staff and inmate food scarcity
- Moved inmates from echo cell to the new maximum cell building to alleviate overcrowded and unnecessary mixture of pending, misdemeanor and convicted felons.
- Plan to demolish the small office space to build a new two story Department administration building.
- Plans to Demolish old echo cell and chapel for a new inmate cell (two story style building) pending approval.
- Requesting funding for security cameras inside and outside of premises, ASTCA is on board with a potential quote and installation.

Criminal Justice Planning Agency

The American Samoa Criminal Justice Planning Agency is the designated State Administrative Agency of the American Samoa Government, responsible for administering and monitoring all criminal justice grant programs awarded to the territory of American Samoa from the United States Department of Justice. In accordance with the code of laws and statutes of the Territory of American Samoa as prescribed under Title 46 of the American Samoa Code Annotated, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency shall serve as the local clearinghouse for federal grant programs awarded to the Territory under the Omnibus Crime Control & Safe Streets Act of 1968 and the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Act of 1974.

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency collaborates with partnering criminal justice agencies, departments and stakeholders to elevate the vision, goals and objectives of the American Samoa Criminal Justice System. It is the ultimate responsibility of the Criminal Justice Planning Agency to ensure that the administration and monitoring of all grant awards are effective, amenable, and up to date; including all administrative duties and stipulations in this regard. The CJPA intends to maximize efficiency and effectiveness as a government entity, and to cultivate a transparent organizational culture with the capacity for flexibility and professionalism in the duties in which we perform.

Accomplishments are as follows:

Reinstatement of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Council Board: The JJAC is currently composed of 30 new members who are appointed by the Governor of American Samoa. The allied members come from all walks of life and professional disciplines that seek to improve the circumstances of vulnerable and troubled youth, and to build safe innovations and policy recommendations as well as to provide peer support. The JJAC advocates for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the purveyance of a continuum of sanctions for juveniles in local communities. The Advisory Council is tasked with advising the Governor and Legislature on Juvenile Justice issues; identifying and advising agencies on the development of their programs in local policies, programs and practices; assessing juvenile related issues in the community and needed services.

Reinstatement of OJJDP Program: The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) was established by the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Act of 1974, Public Law 93-415, as amended, to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system. American Samoa has been categorized non-compliant due to failure to comply with the program policies and procedures which includes the creation of a JJAC as well as the lack of information on its compliance and monitoring plan. After 5 long years, the CJPA is able to satisfy the requirements set forth by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs to allow American Samoa back into the OJJDP Title II Program. The reinstatement of the OJJDP Program will improve and support local efforts to address crime and delinquency in the Territory of American Samoa to promote safety and security for the children and the communities they call home. The vision and mission of the OJJDP Program is to advance best practices that will promote efforts to prevent, intervene, treat, and support juvenile delinquents. The CJPA will administer and monitor the OJJDP Program to meet compliance requirements and to provide guidance in implementing

community-based strategies, planning, and policy-making, as aligned with the goals and objectives of the OJJDP Program.

Purchase of new EMS Ambulance Unit 2 for Tutuila and Transit Van for EMS Manu'a:

A new EMS Ambulance Unit was delivered for the Emergency Medical Services for Tutuila and a Ford transit van was delivered for the EMS Manu'a.

All Grant Applications Submitted:

BJA FY 2022 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Formula Solicitation: The Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) provides funding for the creation and/or implementation of extreme risk protection order programs, state crisis intervention court proceedings, and related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives.

BJA FY 2022 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program --- State Program: The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. Through this opportunity, the BJA will award JAG Program funds to eligible states as described in this FY 2022 JAG Program.

BJA FY 2022 Invited to Apply – Byrne Discretionary Community Project Funding/Byrne Discretionary Grants Program: The BJA seeks applications that align with projects for funding in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117-103) that improve the functioning of the Criminal Justice System, prevent or combat juvenile delinquency, and assist victims of crime.

BJA FY 2022 Invited to Apply – Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Reallocation Funds Program: This opportunity is only available to states and territories who received an invitation to apply. Applicants who are eligible include State Administering Agencies including American Samoa and other territories.

BJA FY 2022 John R. Justice (JRJ) Formula Grant: This funding opportunity, through the BJA, provides student loan repayment assistance for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to extended service in those roles.

BJA FY 2022 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program Formula Grant: The RSAT for State Prisoners Program assists states with developing and implementing residential substance use disorder treatment programs within state correctional facilities, as well as within local correctional and detention facilities, in which persons are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance use disorder treatment.

BJA FY 2022 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program: Under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), the Office Justice Programs (OJP) of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) makes payments to eligible "states" and "units of local government" that incur certain types of costs due to "incarceration" of "undocumented criminal aliens" during a

particular 12-month "reporting period." The reporting period for the FY 2020 Program is July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021.

BJA FY 22 Second Chance Act Community-Based Reentry Program: The Second Chance Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-199), reauthorized by the First Step Act of 2018, provides a comprehensive response to assist in the transition individuals make from prison, jail, or juvenile residential facilities to the community so that the transition is more successful and promotes public safety.

FY 2022 COPS Hiring Program (CHP): Under the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) awards provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire law enforcement officers for the advancement of public safety through an increase in their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

OJJDP FY 2022 Second Chance Act Addressing the Needs of Incarcerated Parents and Their Minor Children: This program provides funding to support states and units of local government to develop programs within detention or correctional facilities to respond to the needs of incarcerated parents who have children younger than age 18.

OJJDP FY 2022 Title II Formula Grants Program: The OJJDP FY 2022 Title II Formula Grants Program provides funding to support state and local efforts to plan, establish, operate, and evaluate policies and projects, directly or through grants and contracts with public and private agencies for the development of effective education, training, research, prevention, and treatment/rehabilitation programs in the area of juvenile delinquency as well as juvenile justice system efforts.

OVC FY 2022 VOCA Victim Assistance Formula: OVC awards eligible states and territories victim assistance programs an annual grant to support eligible crime victim assistance programs in that state or territory.

OVW FY 2022 Sexual Assault Services Formula Program: The SASP Formula Grants provide funds to rape crisis centers and other non-profit, nongovernmental organization or tribal programs for activities and programs that provide direct services and intervention to victims.

OVW FY 2022 STOP Formula Grant Program: The STOP Formula Grant Program supports communities, including American Indian tribes, in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

OVW FY 2022 Training and Services to END Violence Against Women with Disabilities Grant Program: The goals of the Disability Grant Program are to create sustainable change within and between organizations that improved the response to individuals with disabilities and Deaf individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, and to hold perpetrators of such crimes accountable.

SMART FY 2022 Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program: The Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Support for Adam Walsh Act (AWA) Implementation Grant Program assists jurisdictions with developing and enhancing programs designed to implement and maintain requirements under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, specifically Subtitle A of Title I of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

New Grant Awards for FY 2022:

BJA FY 2022 Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Formula Solicitation: The DOJ has awarded CJPA funding under the Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP) Grant Award. This grant award provides funding for the creation and/or implementation of extreme risk protection order programs, state crisis intervention court proceedings, and related gun violence reduction programs/initiatives.

BJA FY 2022 John R. Justice (JRJ) Formula Grant: The DOJ has approved this funding opportunity, which provides student loan repayment assistance for local, state, and federal public defenders and local and state prosecutors who commit to extended service in those roles.

BJA FY 2022 Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program – State Program: The DOJ has approved the CJPA for funding under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Award. This program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to states and units of local government. Through this opportunity, the BJA will award JAG Program funds to eligible states as described in this FY 2022 JAG Program.

BJA FY 2022 Invited to Apply -- Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Reallocation Funds Program: The DOJ has approved the CJPA for funding under the PREA Grant Award. This opportunity was possible upon receipt of invitation from the BJA under the DOJ. Applicants who are eligible include State Administering Agencies such as American Samoa and other territories.

BJA FY 2022 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) for State Prisoners Program Formula Grant: The DOJ has approved the CJPA for funding under the RSAT for State Prisoners Grant Award. This program assists states with developing and implementing residential substance use disorder treatment programs within state correctional facilities, as well as within local correctional and detention facilities, in which persons are incarcerated for a period of time sufficient to permit substance use disorder treatment.

OJJDP FY 2021 Title II Formula Grants Program: The DOJ has approved the CJPA with funding under the OJJDP FY 2021 Title II Formula Grants Award. This grant provides funding to support state and local efforts to plan, establish, operate, and evaluate policies and projects, directly or through grants and contracts with public and private agencies for the development of effective education, training, research, prevention, and treatment/rehabilitation programs in the area of juvenile delinquency as well as juvenile justice system efforts.

OVC FY 2022 VOCA Victim Assistance Formula: The DOJ has approved CIPA for funding under the OVC VOCA Victim Assistance Formula Grant Award. This grant awards eligible states and territories victim assistance programs an annual grant to support eligible crime victim assistance programs in that state or territory.

OVW FY 2022 Sexual Assault Services Formula Program: The DOJ has approved CIPA for under the SASP Formula Grants Award. This grant provides funds to rape crisis centers and other non-profit, nongovernmental organization or tribal programs for activities and programs that provide direct services and intervention to victims.

OVW FY 2022 STOP Formula Grant Program: The DOJ has awarded CIPA funding under the STOP Formula Grant Program. This program supports communities, including American Indian tribes, in their efforts to develop and strengthen effective responses to domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

SMART FY 2022 Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program: The DOJ has awarded CIPA funding under the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking (SMART) Support for Adam Walsh Act (AWA) Implementation Grant Program. This grant award assists jurisdictions with developing and enhancing programs designed to implement and maintain requirements under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, specifically Subtitle A of Title I of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA).

Ongoing Grant Projects for FY 2022:

ARPA Non-Profit Assistance Program

The ARPA-NAP is a program that provides federal funds for eligible nonprofit organizations that have experienced negative impacts from COVID. The intention of the funds is to help these nonprofit organizations get back on their feet if they've been put on hold due to the pandemic and sustain their services in hopes that it will eventually lead to enhancement of their services provided. Selection of the awardees comes from the pool of applicants that are eligible for this grant funding per requirements set by the ARPA Oversight Office. Their proposals have been put through a competitive selection process that is both reviewed and approved by a panel of ARPA NAP board members.

This year, a total of twenty-four (24) applicants submitted applications and proposals. Out of the 24, twenty-two (22) of them have been found eligible and approved for funding. These nonprofit organizations provide services that range from long-term health care to providing moral support and basic food items to families to educational after-school programs and so much more. Many of these nonprofit organizations have been around for years and many are also fairly new having started up their organization within the past five (5) years. We did not wish to limit the access of these funds to only the veteran organizations but to spread the assistance to any organization that is making both apparent and small, good differences in the daily lives of our community.

In total, over \$4,550,000.00 are pledged to these nonprofit organizations. It is our hope that these funds will alleviate some of the financial struggles that they are enduring. A few

examples: renovations to a new wing of a facility that serves terminally ill patients whose families cannot provide the intense 24-hour care themselves. This will benefit not only these current patients and families but also the ones to follow. Furthermore, these funds are also allocated to aid organizations that help families of children with special needs that wish to ensure that their children will be able to live a better life despite the obstacles they are presented with, and to enhance their capability and capacity to live happy and healthy lives as adults. Although a specific and small community, they are part of our community nonetheless and provide services that are almost nonexistent on our island. There are over a dozen more narratives with each nonprofit organization that have needs to help continue their good work. It is our objective to give aid to these nonprofit organizations with a specific need in mind to keep them doing their good work despite having been on pause due to the pandemic. Disbursement of the funds to the awardees is projected to commence before the year's end.

Aumaga Aid Project

The Village Aumaga-aid is part of the CJPA Community Based Policing project. The project is funded under the 2020 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding (CESF) of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice. The Village Aumaga aid project was implemented to support the American Samoa Government COVID-19 Emergency response. To date, 37 villages have received funding assistance to strengthen the Aumaga's assistance to government efforts in controlling and preventing the spread of COVID -19.

School Resource Officer Program

The School Resource Officer Program is established for the purpose of promoting and maintaining safe schools and supporting educational opportunities. The SRO Program is funded under the COPS Hiring Grant Program as a Community-Based Policing Initiative to reinforce partnerships between law enforcement and schools across the Territory of American Samoa. In collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, Department of Education and Office of Samoan Affairs, the mission of the SRO Program is to create a working protocol for exchanging information and addressing matters of concern in school-based communities with a shared understanding of goals and objectives to coincide with SRO duties and expectations of the American Samoa Education System. School Resource Officers contribute to the safety and order of a school environment, as it is the foundation on which effective schools operate. As an on-site first responder, SROs provide supervision to address student misdemeanor through classroom instruction and school-based strategies to ensure that school guidelines are enforced and regulated.

The School Resource Officer Program has aided schools across the territory and has provided direct support to school administrators, key staff and faculty. During the onset of COVID-19 earlier this year, American Samoa was issued a Code Red Declaration following an island-wide lockdown on February 21, 2022. All ASG operations were ceased including the temporary closure of schools. Consequently, all schools transitioned to an interactive online learning platform to accommodate schedule flexibility for students and teachers during the pandemic. School Resource Officers were tasked to distribute hybrid-learning schedules among other duties, and to assist with the dispersal of electronic learning devices and

supplies to students. School administrators and key staff coordinated with SROs to implement education-based strategies and planning to support interactive learning to ensure reliable connectivity and effective delivery of educational services and opportunities for student learning.

As part of training and certification purposes, DOE provides refresher-training courses for SROs during the summer to prepare for the new school year. Through this opportunity, SROs learn and engage with school administrators, staff, and faculty to analyze, assess, evaluate and implement school safety plans, goals and expectations for student success, ethical standards, cultivating mentor relationships with students, counseling services, identifying stress-related trauma and mental health, and improved instructional leadership. The refresher training has shown to bolster capabilities and competencies for SROs to work effectively in a school-based culture and environment. School Resource Officers have shown to contribute not only to school safety and security but also to overall school effectiveness, offering compelling reasons to establish and maintain law enforcement and school partnerships.

American Samoa Sex Offender Registry Project

The American Samoa Sex Offender Registry Notification (ASSORN) Division under the Office of the Attorney General operates and maintains the American Samoa Sex Offender Registry. The SORNA Office works diligently with partner divisions of the AG's Office as well as other collaborative agencies to document all convicted sex offenders in the Territory of American Samoa. These divisions include the Criminal (Prosecution) Office, Probation Office, Parole Office and the Travel and Immigration Office. Collaborative agencies that work with the SORNA Office include the Department of Public Safety and the Corrections Agency. These agencies are tasked with retrieving and releasing information for the establishment and upkeep of the Sex Offender Registry. Continued efforts are made to track and register convicted sex offenders who have not yet been registered and are the ultimate goal of the SORNA Office and authorities to ensure that these individuals are tracked and registered following their release into the community.

The Sex Offender Registry Project and notification programs are imperative for public awareness and safety purposes. The sex offender registration provides an effective system that distributes important data and information of convicted sex offenders for public notification to include the establishment of the sex offender registry website online. For this purpose, the public is able to access important information about sex offenders to spread community awareness and to support local authorities in efforts to track and register these individuals. In compliance with SORNA requirements, the SORNA Office is required to register sex offenders to the Tribe and Territory Sex Offender Registry System (TTSORS). The TTSORS functions as the administrative registry system that provides the public sex offender registry website for our territory's jurisdiction. The SORNA Office also registers sex offender information to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) System under the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The NCIC System allows the SORNA Office to upload sex offender information for compliance and registration purposes.

In compliance with NCIC and FBI standards and regulations, the SORNA Office is required to establish an NCIC security room with a computer within the confinement of the SORNA

Office. The NCIC security room and computer is exclusively for the access and registering of information for NCIC purposes. The CJPA supported the efforts of the SORNA Office to build the NCIC Security Room. This project was initiated and completed earlier this year and is currently operable and fully equipped for the services in which the SORNA is required to perform. In addition, the CJPA was able to fund essential equipment and barrier structures for COVID purposes including plexiglass windows and partitions to accommodate and minimize transmission of COVID-19 in the workspace. In completing this project, the SORNA Office and staff is able to operate in a clean and protected facility and to perform essential duties to serve the public and to ensure that their clients' needs are met.

Sexual Assault Services Program

In collaboration with the Department of Human and Social Services, the Criminal Justice Planning Agency plays a critical role in funding sexual assault services to establish programs afforded to victims with significant challenges and have experienced sexual crimes. The Sexual Assault Services Program provides service providers the opportunity to manage staff and volunteer coverage in addressing the needs of victims of crime. The DHSS offers sexual assault victim services expertise to provide quality, anonymous, and confidential crisis intervention services in English and Samoan, via telephone and online. This specific program aids survivors of sexual assault to receive the support and help they deserve.

Official Closeout of Site-Visit 28871: The Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) under the U.S. Department of Justice conducted a site-visit to American Samoa on June 19-23, 2017. During the visit, the OCFO examined policies and procedures at the time of the financial and programmatic monitoring review of all grant awards awarded to the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Following the site-visit review, the OCFO issued a list of items and recommendations that required sufficient supporting documentation and information prior to closeout. Since the initial date of the site-visit, the CJPA office managed to gather and collect the required documents over a span of five years. On June 27, 2022, the OCFO issued an official letter of approval finalizing the closeout for site visit 28871.

CJPA Funded Personnel Positions:

Employment Positions:

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency currently employs a total of ninety two career positions in various departments and agencies in the American Samoa Government. The Office of the Attorney General currently employs three Criminal Prosecutors including one newly hired Criminal Prosecutor. The Criminal Prosecutor positions are funded under the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) and Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant. Criminal Prosecutors bear the responsibility to protect the welfare of communities by ensuring that criminals are held accountable for their actions. As aligned with the goals and objectives of the said grant awards, Criminal Prosecutors advocate and empower victims to a certain degree in efforts to execute cases efficiently and accurately. In addition, two legal assistants at the Office of the Attorney General are also funded under the CJPA through the Victims Of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant, including a Legal Investigator and Victims Advocate employed at the SORNA Division. The SORNA Division under the Office of the Attorney General houses additional positions funded under CJPA through the SMART Grant, including a paralegal, program manager, legal intern, legal assistant and a clerk. The SORNA Office is tasked with

the management and operation of the American Samoa Sex Offender Registry.

The Department of Public Safety houses twenty officers that are currently funded under the JAG Grant and the VAWA Grant. The law enforcement officer positions establish continued efforts to advance the mission and goals of the Department of Public Safety, and to provide community-based policing services and initiatives to the citizens of American Samoa. Through this grant award, law enforcement officers are able to elevate strengthened partnerships with various local communities in the Territory to promote safety, security, and to preserve the interests of the public. The Department of Human and Social Services currently employs several personnel positions including clerk positions, administrative assistant positions, shelter workers and a caseworker. The said positions are funded under CIPA through the VAWA and VOCA Grants. The Department of Education currently houses fifteen active School Resource Officers that are funded under the COPS Hiring Program. The SRO's are delegated to various DOE schools as part of CIPA's Community-based policing initiative, and in collaboration with DPS and the Office of Samoan Affairs.

Through the COVID Supplemental Fund Grant, two special agent positions are currently employed at the Department of Homeland Security – OTICIDE Division. The funded personnel positions aim to support and continue goals and initiatives of DHS to secure and protect the borders of American Samoa, and to conduct essential duties to respond and control crimes. The Department of Marine and Wildlife houses two Conservation Officer

Positions funded under the CIPA through the COVID Supplemental Fund Grant. The Conservation Officers enforce laws that protect natural resources and marine and wildlife. Currently, there is one new Program Manager and one new Finance Assistant at CIPA. The Criminal Justice Planning Agency commits to bringing new grant opportunities that will help support and supplement the goals and initiatives of each department and agency to advance services and best practices throughout the Territory of American Samoa and to ensure that the needs of the people are met and catered to.

Governor's Drug Control Office

In FY 2022, the Governor's Drug Control Office conducted 23 workshops targeting schools, government agencies, village youth groups, faith-based organizations, and summer youth programs. There were a total of 890 participants (ages 8 to 69) in attendance.

American Samoa Drug Assessment Report

Compilation of the American Samoa Assessment Report highlights the critical and severe drug problem that extends beyond marijuana. American Samoa is no longer "isolated" from global drug concerns, as seen by the introduction of methamphetamine in 1999 and confiscations of cocaine in recent years. Methamphetamine has recently supplanted marijuana as the most serious drug threat in American Samoa. Local law enforcement authorities point to rising methamphetamine abuse as the cause for a rise in violent crime in the territory.

The National Governors Association Policy Academy

American Samoa was the sole US Territory selected by the National Governors Association (NGA) to participate in a year-long policy academy along with four other states hit hard by

the opioid overdose epidemic with a focus on improving state and territorial strategies to address poly-substance and stimulant abuse. The American Samoa Policy Academy team was comprised of the Office of the Governor, Department of Legal Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Human & Social Services, Department of Health, LBJ Tropical Medical Center, American Samoa Medicaid Office, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Department of Homeland Security, and Department of Public Safety (CID & Vice & Narcotics Divisions).

“Beginning in September 2021, the local National Governors Association Policy Academy (NGAPA), led by the Office of the Governor, have met with national experts, participated in webinars, and received technical assistance to develop an action plan focused on improving collaboration between departments, data sharing, and leveraging funding opportunities within the Federal government and our Territorial government. The initiative concluded in September of 2022 and the American Samoa Policy Academy Team now assists in developing and planning the Territorial Strategy of combating drug issues in the territory.

Comprehensive Substance Abuse Council (CSAC)

The establishment of the CSAC to combat illegal drug use and substance abuse have a significant impact on those who are addicted, their families, and the Territory of American Samoa. Our strategy to respond to substance abuse must be based on evidence and take into consideration the culture of American Samoa and the communities that live in the Territory. The government action requires participation of senior government leaders and frontline staff who directly interact with those impacted by substance abuse.

The CSAC is Chaired by Lieutenant Governor Talauega Eleasalo Ale and is comprised of 18 cabinet directors and senior government officials; and three-at-large members who are appointed by the Governor for a term of one year and may include representatives of private business, non-profit organizations, faith-based groups or consumers. The Council has three subcommittees: Prevention (outreach), Enforcement and Treatment & Rehabilitation. The Council meets quarterly to discuss recommendations and goals discussed at the Committee level.

Office of the Administrative Law Judge

Comprehensive Agency Rule Reform Project

The CARR project that is now well underway is not just an accomplishment of the OALJ, but rather a shared accomplishment of Governor Lemanu P.S. Mauga, Lt. Governor Talauega/Secretary of American Samoa, Rule Reform Panel agencies: Office of the Secretary of American Samoa (OSAS), Legal Affairs (LA), American Samoa Economic Development Agency (ASEDA), Office of Program Planning & Budget (OPPB), Treasury (TR) and the agencies and hired legal consultants that are now participating in the CARR project.

The CARR project involves an agency-by-agency review of rules (regulations) (DRS) with agencies themselves and gives them the assistance of two legal consultants to assist them in improving their regulations in accordance with specific standards in E.O. #001-2019. This includes scrutinizing their regulations for practices that are duplicative, wasteful, vague, impose burdens on the public and standards to improve efficiency, cost savings and revenue.

Should an agency need the reform of a provision(s) in their enabling statute in order to make needed rule reform, E.O. #001-2019 allows them to make statutory recommendations to the Governor to consider.

Law reforms emanating from the CARR process will have meaningful, useful, and up-to-date content because the CARR process encourages reliance on agency experience, interagency networking, and input from RRP agencies. The framework for the CARR project is not a new invention as it is adapted from a federal presidential executive order (**Executive Order 13777 of February 24, 2017**). It seeks to follow the advisory input processes for agency rulemaking under OMB/OIRA. It is American Samoa's own version of a federal process borrowed to upgrade its agency law in a focused and comprehensive way.

Comprehensive Agency Rule Reform Project Significant Accomplishments:

- Comprehensive Agency Rule Reform Project – CARR Project is operational and updating Territory's Agency Laws.
- TAP grant resources have funded two legal consultants for the CARR project. Through the work of OSAS their positions were again funded in 2022. To date the CARR project has enabled almost 10 agencies to produce statutory reform recommendations (SRRS) to their statutes and updated regulations for these agencies. These law reforms are in their final stages for forwarding to the Attorney General for review and to the Governor. There are an estimated 40+ agencies within the executive branch whose statutes and rules need to be updated. Some, like the workmen's compensation commission, will be publishing their regulations for the first time. Workmen's Compensation regulations are almost complete. The CARR project is operational and well underway. Agency statutory reforms and regulatory reforms are expected to come out beginning in 2023.

As the CARR project has potential for realizing agency cost controls and revenue increases using the tool of agency rulemaking, the DOI has already shown interest in funding the project twice. The prospects for CARR's continued federal funding are good due to the interest of the DOI in self-sufficiency and improvement in cost reductions and revenue generation of the local government. However, while the CARR is underway, its prospect for continued federal funding also depends on the success the CARR project has in the Fono passing its SRRS and agencies promulgating the DRs that come through the CARR process.

Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) connection with CARR project. The OALJ is authorized under A.S.C.A. 4.0602 to assist agencies in their rulemaking. The CARR project is the avenue through which the ALJ is meeting this required assistance. The undersigned ALJ has been the secretary of the advisory Rule Reform Panel (RRP) since 2019 and is a member of the RRP. The undersigned works closely with the two hired legal consultants of the CARR project.

The Rule Reform Panel (RRP) collectively provides advisory input for agency SRRS and DRS before the agency head finalizes its reforms and submits them to the Attorney General and Governor for their further review. The Governor determines if agency SRRS will get submitted to the legislature as an administrative bill.

OALJ Operations and Caseload:

- Despite COVID 19 restrictions that reduced work hours and use of the OALJ building, the ALJ was able to issue decisions closing 22 cases in the last fiscal year.
- The OALJ has completed its inventory of all cases since its establishment in 1998.
- The OALJ has completed the establishment of its first electronic database of cases that allows the tracking of cases for status.
- The OALJ was able to retain a temporary hire to be an assistant clerk through the On The Job Training (OJTP) program.
- The OALJ was awarded \$185,000 in AARPA funds to help it protect against COVID-19. Aside from furniture and structural changes, much of these funds will be used to improve remote hearings and communication.

Office of the Secretary of American Samoa

Since launching the Rule Reform Initiative during the first year of the Lemanu-Talauega Administration, the Office of the Secretary of American Samoa (OSAS) has been hard at work reviewing statutes across numerous agencies and departments across the government to reform any rules that have become regulatory burdens on the people of American Samoa.

Comprehensive Administrative Rule Reform Project: OSAS continues to spearhead the reforming and modernization of rules for the Executive Branch of the American Samoa Government through the Comprehensive Administrative Rule Reform Project.

STATUTORY AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR FONONO INTRODUCTION	
<u>DEPARTMENT NAME</u>	<u>Forwarded to GO</u>
Department Of Agriculture	May 2022
Department Of Marine & Wildlife Resources	May 2022
Department Of Port Administration	June 2022
American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency	July 2022

STATUTORY AMENDMENTS PENDING SUBMISSION TO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE – IN FINAL REVIEW	
<u>DEPARTMENT NAME</u>	<u>Anticipated Ready Date</u>
Office of the Administrative Law Judge	Dec 2022/Jan 2023
Department Of Homeland Security	Dec 2022/Jan 2023
Workmen's Compensation Commission	Nov 2022/Dec 2022

AGENCIES CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH THE INITIAL STAGES OF CARR PROCESS	
<u>DEPARTMENT NAME</u>	<u>Rule Making Authority?</u>
American Samoa Community College	Yes
American Samoa Power Authority	Yes
Department Of Public Safety	Yes
Department Of Education	Yes
Department Of Commerce	Yes
Department Of Marine & Wildlife Resources	Yes
Office Of the Secretary of American Samoa	Yes
Office Of Archives and Records Management	Yes
LBJ Tropical Medical Center	Yes

CURRENT DRAFTING RULES DRAFTING PROJECTS				
<i>DEPARTMENT NAME</i>	<i>Bill Draft Status</i>	<i>Enactment Status</i>	<i>Rule Draft Status</i>	<i>Promulgation Status</i>
Workmen's Compensation Commission	Has rule-making authority	n/a	100% complete	Awaiting APA promulgation by Agency
Department of Homeland Security	Has rule-making authority	n/a	100% complete	Awaiting APA promulgation by Agency
Department of Agriculture	100% complete	Admin Bill pending	100% complete	Awaiting Bill enactment
Department of Port Administration	100% complete	Admin Bill pending	100% complete	Awaiting Bill enactment
Commerce Commission	Has rule-making authority	n/a	90% complete	Awaiting Commission review
Department of Human Resources	100% complete	Admin Bill needed	100% complete	Awaiting bill enactment
Election Office	Has rule-making authority	n/a	100% complete	Awaiting Agency review and approval
Office of Property Management	100% complete	Admin Bill pending	90% complete	Awaiting Bill enactment
Office of Procurement	Has rule-making authority	n/a	70% complete	Awaiting Agency review and approval

OTHER OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF AMERICAN SAMOA PROJECTS

Modernize the services offered by the Office of the Secretary of American Samoa.

Notary Public Course Held Online

- First ever Notary Public Course held completely online on November 15, 2022.
 - 3-hour course conducted online
 - Course Examination held online
 - Positive feedback all around for the online format

Comprehensive Administrative Rule Reform Grant

- CARR Grant was extended for another 18 months and the funding amount increased

Document Management System

- Facilitate digital storage of all data and establish a searchable database for ease of public access
- Purchased and in process of being implemented

Key Demographics

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration is committed to the empowerment and development of opportunities for the following key demographics across the Territory.

Youth and Women Programs

Youth Council

On October 7, 2022, Governor Lemanu P. S. Mauga signed Executive Order 010-2022, an order to establish the Governor's Youth Council, to act as a voice for the youth of American Samoa to the American Samoa Government. This will provide young people in the territory with a forum to address their concerns and encourage our youth to have a voice in the future of our territory.

Department of Youth and Women's Affairs

The Department of Youth and Women's Affairs continues with its mission to plan, implement, and provide educational programs, training seminars, cultural programs, and informational network programs to empower the youth and women of American Samoa.

Women's Division

The goal of the various women's programs is to encourage women to acknowledge the importance of their roles in family, village, government and in church. Part of these programs have created resources for women entrepreneurship building self-reliant, self-sufficient, and independent women. These programs provided a safe environment for women to express their fears, challenges, and obstacles faced in a male dominated society. DYWA's platform encourages women to invest in their mental health and well-being. Statistics show an increase of 400 participants in the various women's programs. Ongoing Women's Division programs are as follows: Sip & Tip Discussions, Pae ma le Auli, Downtime, HIPA, Elei, Sewing Program, and Tusiga Solo.

Youth's Division

The total combined number of participants in the various youth programs is 795. DYWA stands firmly on building young leaders to have a voice in the decision making process for our government. In these programs, the youth were given opportunities to identify local issues and potential resolutions. Ongoing Youth Programs include the following: Youth Forum, Virtual Youth Summit, Math It Out Tutoring Program, Mua O Festival, and the Reading Program Outreach.

Health & Wellness

DYWA wellness programs have tremendously improved with the rising number of participants. DYWA has drawn the community in with the different ongoing sports that are taking place at both facilities. Extended office hours have allowed working individuals time to commit to their professional goals and still be able to gain the opportunity to improve their healthy lifestyle. Ongoing DYWA wellness programs include the following: - Mental Health Partnership Summit, Governor's Initiative, Taebo Defense, Ola Malosi, Power Up, Weight Training, Boxing Class, Youth Athletic Development Program, Amanaki Fo'ou Diabetes Prevention Program, Open Gym: Pickleball, Badminton, Volleyball, and Basketball.

Private and Public Partnership

DYWA continues to be supportive in offering community services and outreach programs to the people of American Samoa through different partnerships.

- Several organizations that DYWA has been able to work collaboratively with are the Alliance, GIAS, SOFIAS, etc. This partnership also includes many government departments and agencies.
- DYWA together with the Mua O Festival committee hosted a mini-cultural festival competition. Mua O is an organization of young aspiring ladies whose desire is to preserve the Samoan culture through entertainment.

Veterans Affairs Office

The Veterans Affairs Office continues to advocate for our Active Military and U.S. Veterans and their families on the island.

National Governor’s Challenge Initiative

In February 2022, the Veterans Affairs Office joined the National Governor’s Challenge Initiative that focuses efforts on lessening Veteran Suicide. The local Veterans Affairs Office is now part of a national team of partners and have established their core membership of active agencies working towards lessening the perils of suicide and increasing the awareness on mental health.

American Samoa sent a team of five members to participate in the National Convention in Alexandria, Virginia and was the only U.S. Territory chosen to present their unique and innovative Peer Group Support System – “Food Security.” The “Food Security” Program is a pilot program designed to assist many Veterans or family members who are having issues with mental instability. This is one of the newly designed nonclinical support therapy programs to help assist our Veterans and their families. Two more programs are pending final grant approval before the Veterans Affairs Office can launch all three programs.

In House Grant Writer

The Veterans Affairs Office hired an in house grant writer in February 2022.

- Awarded MAP/TAP DOI Grant (\$74,800)
 - This Grant was written to establish the first “Living Museum” on the island, showcasing American Samoa’s efforts during WWII. It includes three WWII historical sites that include (Pill Box, Small Bunker and Large Bunker).
- Approved Application with the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs (\$750,000)
 - Grant will be used to provide peer group support therapies for our at-risk Veterans suffering from varying degrees of mental health issues.
 - Three non-clinical programs to help strengthen the Governor’s Challenge:
 1. Food Security Program
 2. Watersports / Golf Program
 3. Recreation Center
- Submitted Grant for the Future Finder Challenge – funding jointly by the Department of Education and Veterans Administration.
 - Submitted Oct/2022, if approved – maximum value \$500,000

- Grant proposal was submitted to request funding to help with a Veterans Job Training Program.

Veterans Group Meetings

The Veterans Affairs Office hosts the following Veterans group meetings: Go For Broke, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Samoa Veterans Association and the 793rd Engineers.

Veterans Day Celebration

The American Samoa Governor's Office and the Veterans Affairs Office hosted the celebration of Veteran's Day in honor of the brave men and women who served and continue to serve in the



United States Armed Forces. The celebration started on Wednesday evening with a sunset memorial service at the Veterans Memorial Center in Tafuna. Celebrations were continued on to Thursday with a Family Fun Day. All American Samoa Government (ASG) departments, agencies, and high school JROTC programs participated in a parade from the Lion's Park heading towards the VA Office. A variety of Food Vendors were placed across the field for families to enjoy. Food Vouchers were also distributed to the families who attended the ceremony. Water slides were provided for

the children and supervised by assigned ASG departments. Entertainment consisted of various dance groups from across the territory coming together to honor our Veterans. The memorable celebration reflects the love and support of our territory for our very own Toa o Samoa from the past, current and the future.

Disability & Aging Population

It is the commitment of the American Samoa Government to provide our senior citizens and people with disabilities the opportunity to pursue meaningful and productive lives and thrive in a fully inclusive society. The following are some of the progress and program activities towards the provision of services for our senior citizens and residents with disabilities.

Territorial Administration on Aging

In the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic, a major accomplishment of 2022 for the Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA) has been the ability to avoid interruptions in services to the senior community, especially through meal services. Fortunately, a few modifications to the program and strict adherence to the COVID-19 Pandemic Declarations, allowed services to the community to remain virtually uninterrupted. The employment program, SCSEP, did experience several setbacks as seniors were advised not to return to certain worksites due to concerns over exposure to the COVID virus. Adjustments were made to ensure all seniors participating in the program receive full training benefits in a professional field of their choice.

While the recent Census shows a substantial decline in population, the number of Senior Citizens participating in TAOA programs has climbed steadily and significantly over the past year.

TAOA Federally funded programs:

- Congregate Meal Program
- Home Delivery Meal Program
- Preventive Health Program
- Ombudsman
- Caregiver Program
- Support Services
- Adult Protective Services
- SCSEP Employment Program
- Traditional Crafts and Dance (Locally Funded)

Database

TAOA maintains a database of approximately 4,000 registered Senior citizens of American Samoa (out of a total of approximately 5,000), active and inactive.

Public Health Outreach

The Department of Health has utilized the TAOA facilities on several occasions as COVID Vaccination sites, including Boosters. This easy access to the vaccine resulted in the highest percentage of vaccinated individuals in a particular age group. Our facilities are also utilized annually as a site for the annual flu shots; the location is easily accessible, well-known to seniors and the turnout is high.

SCSEP Community Partnerships

TAOA partners with various agencies to provide training to prepare seniors to enter or reenter the workforce and/or to learn new job skills to improve their chances to become employed. Currently, 96 seniors are enjoying the challenges of working in various ASG Departments.

Community Outreach

TAOA has developed community projects with the following agencies to develop opportunities for seniors to interact with the community, sharing culture, talent, craft and storytelling.

- ABLE: Ongoing partnership to bring awareness and understanding to the health concerns faced in the community, especially those related to dementia
- AS Visitor's Bureau: Seniors have participated in a number of field trips and outreach programs to ensure all members of the community are given an opportunity to learn and participate in the traditional crafts of our forefathers.
- Department of Agriculture: Gardening on site National Marine Sanctuary: Sharing with students island-wide the traditional fishing techniques of the past. Included also were opportunities to enjoy storytelling, making of coconut oil and weaving of mats.
- The TAOA Ukulele band regularly meets offering their support, talents to the seniors.
- Bi-Monthly In-services: Members of the community are invited to share with the audience matters of concern or of interest, especially as they relate to the senior community. Of particular interest are topics related to health, finance and community.

Senior Citizen Month (May, 2022)

Senior Citizens were able to enjoy a month of festivities in celebration of Senior Citizen Month. The month of celebration culminated in a week of activities and public recognition for various accomplishments by the Lions Club of Pago Pago, Rotary Club of Pago Pago, Lieutenant Governor

Talauega E.V. Ale and the Office of Congresswoman Uifa'atali Aumua Amata.

Senior Citizen Christmas Party

TAOA and the Office of the Governor partner annually to celebrate Christmas with the seniors of the community. Government Agencies all contribute to the celebration by donating gift baskets to be distributed to all in attendance. The morning is filled with beautiful entertainment, excellent dining and recognition of seniors of seniority.



Transportation/Support Services

The Ti'eti'e Pasi transportation program has focused on ensuring Seniors have access to reliable, dependable transportation services to meal centers in the western district. Unfortunately, transportation to eastern, north shore villages remains a challenge which few Aiga Bus operators are willing to accept. TAOA is actively pursuing a means to ensure all villages have access to this service.

Congregate Meal/Home Delivery Program

The transition from catering meals in church halls to a restaurant-based meal service continues to be extremely popular amongst all ethnic groups in the community. TAOA now offers delicious plates of Samoan, Filipino and American delights, all falling within the required federal nutritional guidelines, in any one of five locations in the islands. Meal service to the island of Ta'u is currently suspended until such time an eligible meal provided can be identified. In the meantime, a 'box meal' service will be implemented on a monthly basis once the Manu'atele is back in service and will be delivered to each eligible recipient.

Preventative Health Program

The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) is a workshop for adults who are experiencing at least one chronic health condition. The program is designed to provide trainees with lifelong alternate healthy lifestyles and dietary practices. Approximately thirty (30) staff and community members have received federally approved training in CDSMP to further develop and conduct programs that focus on disease management skills including decision making, problem-solving, and action planning.

TAOA has been able to involve staff from a number of fitness facilities in the implementation of the program and our members are now able to enjoy the offerings of the following at no cost to them: Slimmer Stronger You (SSY) 2. TJ's Gym, Pala Lagoon Swimming Pool and South Pacific Water Sports. Additionally, TAOA staff is currently working closely with the PickleBall Association to develop a program for seniors.

Caregivers Training Program

TAOA has partnered with the American Samoa Community College's Nursing Program to offer a federally certified Caregiver Course for members of the community. Three classes are offered annually with graduates becoming fully trained in all aspects of home care and CPR. Additionally, home visits are conducted regularly to assess needs of bed-ridden and wheelchair bound patients and their Caregivers; A database of Care Receivers and their Caregivers is maintained to ensure inclusion of all bed-ridden and homebound individuals for benefits and program purposes; Community outreach meetings to develop an opportunity to improve upon policies and

procedures for the dissemination of information and services is ongoing; Trainings/information dissemination opportunities related to Caregiver responsibilities, expectations, concerns and opportunities for support is ongoing.

Adult Protection Services

Based on legislation targeting the protection of the elderly which was passed in 2018, TAOA became eligible and received funding to hire staff dedicated to developing the policies and procedures necessary to fully develop implement a newly APS program targeting primarily the protection of the elderly against self-neglect and financial exploitation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. MOUS have been signed with six local agencies to ensure available data, services and resources are shared to provide the highest levels of services available. TAOA is currently working collaboratively with each agency to ensure measurable data is collected which will serve to improve APS services.

TAOA received a grant through the No Wrong Door initiative and was able to acquire seventy-five iPads and MiFis to distribute to wheelchair-bound seniors within the community who may be prone to feelings of loneliness, depression and/or feelings of isolation. The iPads are intended to allow for greater communication to family and friends off island, access to the internet and movies and games for entertainment. They will also provide an opportunity to communicate with medical facilities off island as needed.

Adult Protective Service Awards (2021-2022): \$93,880 (18 months - Completed) - Development of APS Program to address the growing concerns of isolation and lack of services due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

\$249,706 (ARP) (2 Years-Ongoing) - To develop, improve, strengthen and maintain Adult Protective Services programs in the Territory of American Samoa through community empowerment in order to improve the safety and independence of older adults who are, or who may become victims, or potential victims of abuse, neglect, self-neglect or financial exploitation with the least amount of intervention possible.

\$78,610 (2 Years - Ongoing) Expanding the Public Health Workforce - Expanding the Public Health Workforce within ACL's Aging Networks - Expanding partnerships with the public health system to provide technical assistance and guidance to older adults and people with disabilities.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's (OVR) mission is to: "Enable residents of American Samoa with disabilities, to obtain and retain employment and achieve community integration". This mission is pursued via the services provided by the following programs hosted under the auspices of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. While the COVID-19 pandemic affected various Office of Vocational Rehabilitation programs during the months of February to May, the OVR Year various program achievements for 2022 are as follows:

Basic VR Program Accomplishments:

- Collaborated and completed the WIOA VR section 2020-2023 State Plan with AS DHR and ASCC Adult Basic Ed Program. AS OVR received conditional approval.

- VR Recently initiated the American Samoa Community Survey Needs Assessment for PY2022- 2023.
- OVR COVID 19 Impact Survey for PY2022 was completed by Iulogologo J. Pereira and staff. (See Attachment 2022 FINAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.)
- OVR maintains good open communication with RSA MIS and PMS grant portals. OVR has received all Grant Award Notifications for FY2022. Accounts were opened for program expenditures. Grant Reports have been submitted via grant portals in a timely fashion to meet due dates.
- 2022-23 School to Work Program: OVR registered and submitted to DHR, 46 Transition High School students to receive VR Transition services (Career Exploration, Work Readiness skills, training and work based learning) The STW training stipends are charged on F20178.
- 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) - OVR provided workplace training to 30 SYEP participants at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. WIOA funded these participant stipends.
- 2022 Summer Youth Employment Program – OVR funded 22 additional SYEP students at Leone HS, Tafuna HS, Samoana HS and Marist Faasao HS campuses. OVR account F20178 covered the participant stipends for One blind, two deaf, one Multiple-Sclerosis and 19 SLD disabled students.
- SF 425 ETA 9169 reports that OVR served a total of 248 clients with VR Services. (submitted September 2022). Many of these clients gained employment outcomes via VR assistance.

Support Employment Program Accomplishments:

- SEP Coordinator did visitations to the AS DOE high schools following up on students with significant disabilities at the Special Ed Resource rooms. The one female student with significant disabilities at Leone HS returned to home school and care.
- SEP Coordinator provided Career Exploration workshops for 30 Summer Youth Employment Program participants at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation conference room for 8 weeks in June, July, and August.

Assistive Technology Program Accomplishments:

- Coordinator for Assistive Technology Program is establishing computer labs at: 1) Department of Youth and Women Affairs; 2) Territorial Office for Aging, and 3) AS DOE computer lab in Manu'a. These supplies are charged to Assistive Technology accounts. (Manu'a trip rescheduled due to the Code Red earlier this year.)
- ASAT Program provided Airfare and per diem for AT Coordinator to attend ASAT Directors meeting with grantor Washington DC.
- Assistive Technology Assistant hired. This will help with program finance and client service.

Independent Living Program Accomplishments:

- The Individual Living (IL) Program total caseload for FY2022 is 302.
- 302 consumers served and eight Home Modifications completed.
- During COVID 19 pandemic, IL Counselors provided counseling and guidance on the importance of good health and personal hygiene, wearing of masks, and taking medications as prescribed by healthcare provider.

- Referrals were made to other agencies such as Social Security, Farmers Home Loan, AWSNAP and Food Stamp, TAOA program for Aging, LBJ Medical Center, ASTCA, Territorial Energy Office, and to Dial A Ride to apply for services for the Disabled Consumers in the territory.
- Wheelchair Ramps – Eight wheelchair ramps with metal railings for consumers who are wheelchair bound, were completed.
- Medical Equipment and Supplies provided – 62 wheelchairs, 44 hospital beds, crutches, walkers, canes and other durable medical equipment to assist IL consumers.
- Annual Reports – completed and submitted the IL Older Individual Blind Annual Report to RSA Central Office in Washington D.C. The 704 Annual Report part I and part II is for the SCIL Program (Samoa Center for Independent Living) All our Annual Reports were reviewed and approved by our grantors.
- Office Vehicle – IL program vehicle is running great, providing transportation for our two programs to assist us with our outreach efforts in the rural areas and out in the community.

Independent Living Services for Older Individual Blind (IL-OIB) Program

Accomplishments:

- The total FY2022 caseload was 166. The program served 84 consumers and conducted outreach and home visitations to clients in the community throughout the year. IL-OIB provided counseling and guidance to consumers and caregivers at home. Clients were also referred to other agencies, such as, ASTCA, Energy Office, Social Security Office, TAOA, ASNAP, Farmers Home Loan, LBJ Medical Center, district health centers, and Dial A Ride for additional services.

Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled

The Protection & Advocacy Project (P&A) is the federally mandated, statewide, protection and advocacy system serving individuals with disabilities in American Samoa. The central purpose of the protection and advocacy system is to respond to allegations of abuse, neglect, and violations of rights of persons with disabilities or discrimination based on their disability. The OPAD Year 2022 Program Accomplishments are as follows:

Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI)

- Three clients previously residing in restricted environment while well now successfully transferred to the Transition Home
- Treatment from LBJ Psychiatrist still ongoing and appointments being kept
- Ensured Juvenile Detention Center detainees' education services were continued, in spite of four positive cases of the 6 male juveniles detained
- Checked up on Zoom capability at the Transition Home for clients to receive services
- Received referrals for 5 cases of which only two were PAIMI eligible, remaining referred to PATBI and PAIR programs
- Systemic Case pending - rehabilitation and independent living activities and programs progression at Transition Home to resume with less COVID restriction

- Provided training to Resident Assistants at Transition Home Fagaalu on PAIMI program features, eligibility and regulations, as well as Bill of Rights and human/civil rights
- Continued to conduct intake and referrals from community contacts and agencies
- Collaborated with various agencies, both ASG and private on systemic issues affecting the rights of PAIMI eligible individuals

Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR)

- PAIR Program Manager vigilantly ticketing all Disability Parking spaces where vehicles without adequate parking placard have parked
- Up to 55 citations have been given to those without placards, or expired placards but parked in disability parking
- PAIR Program Manager conducted training for ASG Road Marshalls to be competent in issuing Disability Parking citations to those who violate the law. All Road Marshalls participated in the training and received Certificates
- Private sector businesses are to be submitted Warning Letters for 60 days to comply with appropriate action to make their facility compliant with ADA standards; including appropriate ADA specifications for disability parking
- ASG Buildings will now be given one year from date of notice to comply with ADA
- PAIR/PADD collaboration was requested by Director to ensure the monitoring of schools for ADA compliance
- Completed three ECE/schools assessments

Protection and Advocacy for Assistive Technology (PAAT)

- PAAT was able to coordinate with TAOA, and identify 27 individuals needing wheelchairs through Project Saolotoga; the number still increasing
- PAAT collaborated with LBJ Social Services, Dr. Aiata Orthopedics and Dr. Saleapaga to qualify and identify 9 wheelchair dependent individuals
- PAAT advocated for Hope House individuals who required 15 wheelchairs for their residents and their daytime attendees
- PAAT advocated for Hawaiian Air to receive 5 wheelchairs as they are always short since the repatriation flights
- PAAT was able to refer 5 individuals for OPAD's allotment of wheelchairs for individuals and one wheelchair to stay at the office

Protection and Advocacy for Traumatic Brain Injury (PATBI)

- Collaborating with V.A. for upcoming Mental Health Awareness month activities Mindfulness meditation to relieve stress
- Continued to monitor and participate in community advocacy both on individual and systemic level through email and zoom despite the COVID-restrictions
- Monitored community facilities and general public for any individuals with PATBI

Protection and Advocacy for Developmental Disabilities (PADD)

- Completed Individualized Education Plan training for parents and new advocates
- Completed TriAgency interview for DDPC's program review with Administration for Community Living.
- Received notification from ACL grantor that PADD and PAVA PPR have been reviewed and approved

Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS)

- PABSS program is now on a path of transitioning out of its High Risk status
- Application for PABSS grant funding was approved for another four years
- Application for additional funding for PABSS program was approved, and our Notice of Award was received.

Protection and Advocacy for Voter Access (PAVA)

OPAD conducted the monitoring of polling stations in Tutuila and visited all 37 stations. Identified five polling stations (Fagaitua, Poloa, Lauili, Tula, and Amouli) that would need ramps in order to be fully accessible. The Election Office made the proper arrangements to provide these ramps on the day of the election. The remaining stations were all assessed and found to be accessible to our disability population.

OPAD Finance

The Office of Protection and Advocacy for the Disabled has nine federally funded grants. These programs have been undergoing reviews for the past year and some have been put under new management officers and new policies that may have affected the way OPAD is reviewed for grant processing. Of the nine (9) grants, three (3) are on drawdown restrictions. The drawdown restrictions are being assessed for alignment with ASG policies. OPAD has yet to completely remove drawdown restrictions on all three programs as initially reported, based on other additional review by the grantor. However, OPAD is working continuously with each grantor in hopes the drawdown restrictions can be removed as initially discussed. There have been some positive strides in their collaboration and they hope to have these restrictions removed and so that they can proceed with services and assistance for the disabled community.

American Samoa Election Office

In January 2022, the Election office started official preparations for the 2022 Midterm Elections. Planning and formulating strategies to execute the administration of the Election office programs began in 2021. Updating and revisiting execution strategies had to be flexible with the COVID restrictions changing every so often. The following programs are a few of the programs that were administered in 2022:

The Outreach Program consists of the following campaigns:

- Registration Drive: campaign outreach to American Samoa Community College and visits the high schools to inform and encourage students 18 and over to register to vote.
- Your Voice Your Vote Campaign - Once Registration Drive is over, the "Your Voice Your Vote" campaign begins. This campaign encourages and emphasizes the importance of exercising a person's right to vote. The goal is to get all eligible voters out to the polling stations to vote in their respective districts and for our leaders.
- Voting Assistance for the Elderly and Disabled: This program is a very important program that we continue to administer every election year. Teams go out to villages and sign up, register and assist those eligible voters who are elderly and/or disabled.

This past year the Election Office has been working very closely on Election Security projects

through funding made available by the American Samoa Department of Homeland Security. This project is still ongoing and will cover security for elections in both the physical and cyber aspects. This project consists of the following:

- Election Office Cyber security upgrade
- AS Election Office security Cameras
- AS Election Office Access Control Measures.

* This year, as part of these projects, one aspect that has been completed was the updating of our Registration database ID system to be compatible with Windows 10.

This year's greatest accomplishment was the success of the 2022 Midterm Election. The Midterm Election has been completed and the Official Results from the Election have been certified by the Chief Election Officer and released to the public. Post-Election reporting is currently ongoing. The Election Office reports to the United States House of Representatives, The Department of Justice (UOCAVA) and the Election Assistance Commission. These are the federal agencies that the Election Office works with and reports to as a territory of the United States in matters concerning the administration of elections.

The Election Office will continue compiling, analyzing and providing data from the 2022 Midterm Election to better improve efforts for the preparation of the 2024 General Election. This data and information will be made available upon request with the Chief Election Officer.

Culture

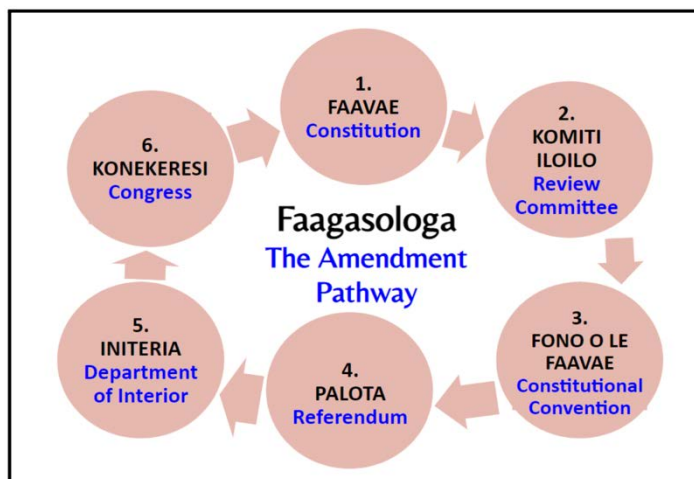
From the Deeds of Cession at the turn of the 20th century, to the American Samoa Constitution forged in the middle of the century, to the choices and challenges of this third decade of the 21st century, one of our people’s greatest hopes has been to protect and preserve Samoan lands, culture and way of life for present and future generations.

To this achieve such a collective purpose, the ASG departments and programs in this section demonstrate the commitment of the Lemanu-Talauuga administration to ensuring that: the legal and constitutional protections remain in place consistent with federal laws; a fair, transparent, and well-managed dispute and resolution process for Land and Titles is provided and operational; the development of the Samoan language is promoted, preserved, and properly guided; Samoan heritage and culture is taught and honored locally and off-island so Samoans young and old may return home and ultimately serve the Samoan community; the storage of all historical, legal, textual, photographic, and electronic cultural and intellectual resources is well-protected, accessible and retrievable; the traditional arts are encouraged and supported and the preservation of Samoan material culture is maintained and valued.

Office of Political Status, Constitutional Review, and Federal Relations

Part I: Amendment Pathway

Each generation is tasked with a responsibility to protect, preserve, and develop our nation as is fitting to the betterment of American Samoa. One of the most important democratic methods for such development is through the celebration, education, and revision of one’s Constitution. As the bedrock of our society, the Constitution acts as a beacon of hope for all people of American Samoa. This medium of development centers the will of our people and ensures that there is a diverse and inclusive collection of voices identifying and addressing the territory’s most pressing issues. 2022 saw an increase in constitutional events - some of the most pivotal being the selection of the Constitutional Review Committee, the First virtual American Samoa Student Constitutional Convention, the convening of American Samoa’s 6th Constitutional Convention, and finally the 2022 Constitutional Referendum. These events promoted a sense of ownership in this democratic process by empowering our people to engage in conversations and activities of constitutional importance.



American Samoa Constitutional Review Committee

A Constitutional Review Committee was called to order on February 4th, 2022, in preparation for the 6th Constitutional Convention of American Samoa. This committee was made up of 54 individuals who represented various demographics within our community: Youth, Women, Clergy, Private & Public Sector representatives, as well as members of the American Samoa Bar Association. The review committee examined American Samoa's Constitution in order to determine whether it was in tune with the range of political, economic, social, environmental, and technological conditions facing the territory.

The Constitutional Review Committee considered a total of 13 proposed amendments to the Revised Constitution of American Samoa. Of the 13 amendments that were considered, 8 were approved by the committee to be sent to the 2022 Constitutional Convention. They are summarized below:

1. **American Samoa Ancestry Amendment.** This amendment clarifies that the protections in Article I Section 3 of the Revised Constitution are limited to persons of American Samoa ancestry and do not apply generally to other Samoans without American Samoa ancestry.
2. **House of Representatives Amendment.** Revising Article II Section 2 of the Revised Constitution, this amendment would increase the total number of seats in the American Samoa House of Representatives from 20 to a number to be determined at the Constitutional Convention. This would be accomplished by adding additional seats to Representative District No. 12 - Ituau, and Representative District No. 15 - Ma'upu. The Committee did not reach a majority agreement on the actual number of seats to add to these districts.
3. **Veto Override Amendment.** This amendment revises two sections of the Revised Constitution - Article II Sections 9 and 19 - to remove the authority of the U.S. Secretary of Interior to approve or disapprove a bill passed by the Fono over the Governor's veto.
4. **Impeachment Amendment.** This amendment would add a new Section 26 under Article II of the Revised Constitution to provide a process for impeachment of certain government officials - Governor, Lt. Governor, and Chief Justice, Associate Justices, Associate Judges, and District Court Judges.
5. **Chief Justice Amendment.** The Committee proposes revisions to Article III Section 3 of the Revised Constitution to remove the authority of the U.S. Secretary of Interior to appoint the Chief Justice of American Samoa and any Associate Justices. This decision will be left to the Governor of American Samoa subject to confirmation by the Fono. This amendment also clarifies that the Chief Justice and Associate Justices shall hold their offices during good behavior until resignation, retirement, death, or impeachment.
6. **Removing Secretary Authority to Review decisions of the American Samoa High Court.** This amendment adds a new Section 4 in Article III of the Revised Constitution removing the authority of the U.S. Secretary of Interior to review or overturn a decision by the American Samoa High Court.
7. **Constitutional Process Amendment.** This amendment removes the authority of the U.S. Secretary of Interior in approving amendments to the Revised Constitution. Instead, amendments

to the Revised Constitution proposed by the Legislature or the constitutional convention, or a revised draft constitution proposed by the constitutional convention shall become effective if approved by at least two-thirds of votes cast at the general election. Article V Section 2 is revised to reflect the new process for amendments originating from the Legislature. Article V Section 4 is revised to provide for amendments or revised draft constitution proposed by the constitutional convention.

8. Government of American Samoa vs. American Samoa Government Amendment. The Committee also agreed to remove all references in the body of the Revised Constitution referring to our local government as the “Government of American Samoa.” The Committee recommends that the preferred name of our government “American Samoa Government” be inserted in place of “Government of American Samoa.”

The 6th Constitutional Convention of American Samoa

American Samoa held its 6th Constitutional Convention from August 29, 2022 - September 02, 2022. A total of 129 Delegates from all 15 districts and Swains Island gathered to deliberate on the Constitutional Review Committee’s proposed amendments as well as suggesting their own. The delegates to the convention elected Honorable Tualo M.E. Fruean as Chairman, Honorable Faiivae Iuli A. Godinet as Vice Chairman, and Honorable Ti’alemasunu Dr. Mikaele Etuale as Secretary. Following the election of the officers, the first 5 amendments to be passed during the convention were The ASG Amendment (to change the name, Government of American Samoa to American Samoa Government), The Veto Override Amendment (to remove the Secretary of Interior’s authority to change the Legislatures override of the Governor’s veto), The Chief Justice Amendment (to give the Governor the authority to appoint the Chief Justice & Associate Justices subject to confirmation by the Legislature), the Secretary of Interior Amendment (to remove the Secretary of Interior’s power to change decisions of the High Court of American Samoa), and the Accountability Amendment (to include an impeachment process for the Governor & Lt. Governor of American Samoa).

The final amendments to be approved by the constitutional delegation were the House Reapportionment Amendment (to add representative seats to the districts of Ituau & Tualauta increasing the total number of representatives from 20 to 22), the Swains Island Amendment (to give voting rights in the House of Representatives to the Swains Island delegate), the Manu’a Amendment (to restore 5 Senators to

Manu’a, increasing total senatorial membership from 18 to 20), the Malaeimi Amendment (to include Malaeimi in representative district #12, Ituau), the Ma’oputasi Amendment (to change the spelling from Ma’uputasi to Ma’oputasi), and the Leasina ma Aitulagi Amendment (to add “ma Aitulagi” to the Leasina name).

The delegates to the 6th Constitutional Convention of American Samoa passed a total of 11 proposed amendments to be sent to all eligible electors of American Samoa in the November 8th, 2022 Constitutional Referendum.



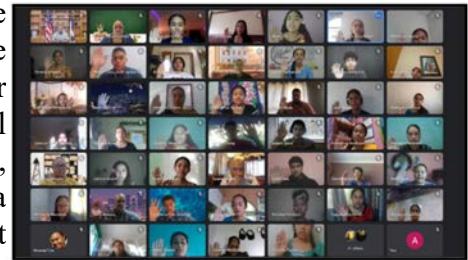
The Delegates of American Samoa's 6th Constitutional Convention. (Featured alongside the delegates are some individuals who supported the Convention.)

Part II: Educational Institutions

When “O lou Tofi, lou Faasinomaga, ma lou Faavae: A Curriculum Guide for American Samoa’s Constitution and Political Status” was launched in August of 2021, it was with the hope that Social Studies teachers may use it as a resource to help students better understand American Samoa’s Constitution and political status. Since then, these classroom conversations have evolved into student led events that uplift youth engagement in constitutional matters. One of the biggest constitutional student events of this year was American Samoa’s 1st Virtual Student Constitutional Convention.

American Samoa’s 1st Virtual Student Constitutional Convention

April 12, 2022 marked a momentous occasion for the adolescence of American Samoa. In an effort to mirror the amendment pathway and encourage active citizenry in our youth, the first virtual American Samoa Student Constitutional Convention was called to order. This student convention, organized in collaboration with the American Samoa Department of Education, saw a total of 140 student participants from both public and private high schools in the territory debating and discussing how our Constitution might address the most pressing issues in American Samoa. This educational event took constitutional conversations in the classroom and gave them real world applications that allowed our students to experience firsthand democracy at work.



Student delegates swearing in at the first virtual Student Constitutional Convention of American Samoa.

American Samoa’s 1st Student Referendum



Students of Faasao Marist High School reviewing the proposed amendments.

In order to continue mirroring the Amendment Pathway, 11th and 12th grade students of American Samoa conducted their own Student Referendum. This allowed them to voice their opinions on the proposed amendments and engage in community conversation surrounding the proposed amendments from the 2022 Constitutional Convention.

On October 19th, 2022, American Samoa held its first Student Referendum. This educational activity allowed our students to continue mirroring the Amendment Pathway while also uplifting their voices on the important matters being discussed. Just like the Student Constitutional Convention held earlier in the year, this referendum saw participation from Juniors (11th Grade) & Seniors (12th Grade) of both public and private schools. The participating students had the opportunity to vote on the 11 proposed amendments passed by the 2022 Constitutional Convention. These students approved 10 out of the 11 proposed amendments. The approval rates ranged from 52% to 72%. The only amendment that was not approved by the secondary students was Amendment #10 (The Ma’oputasi name change).

American Samoa Community College Student Referendum

The American Samoa Community College “ASCC”, also hosted its own Student Referendum. It was administered by the Social Science Department in collaboration with the ASCC Political Science Club. This referendum was conducted in all social science courses and saw participation from 205 different college students. The ASCC Student Referendum was the culmination of a week long’s worth of Constitutional Celebration honoring 62 years since the establishment of our Constitution. The electors of ASCC’s referendum approved 9 out of the 11 proposed amendments. The approval rates ranged from 52% to 75% of the total votes cast. The only 2 amendments that were not approved were The Chief Justice Amendment and the Amendment to restore 5 Senators to Manu’a.



Students of American Samoa Community College engaging in constitutional conversations about the proposed amendments.



ASCC's Political Science Club & Student Government Association with panelists from the Forum on the Proposed Amendments.

Kanana Fou Theological Seminary Outreach

A visit to the Kanana Fou Theological Seminary brought new insight into public opinion on the proposed amendments. Both teachers and students alike shared their thoughts on the constitutional changes and engaged in conversations regarding how these amendments might affect the future of American Samoa.

Part III: Community Outreach

Public Awareness Campaign

In preparation for the November 8th Referendum, various constitutional based outreaches were conducted to help raise awareness on the proposed amendments. These included visitations to various churches (9) across the island in order to interact with a larger public audience. Many of these churches acted as venues for the various villages in their general area and made constitutional community outreach accessible to congregations and constituents within their district. Collaborations with the American Samoa Humanities Council helped organize 3 of these church

outreaches (eastern, western, and central areas) and 2 general meetings in the villages of Faga’itua & Utulei, American Samoa.

It was also imperative that various government departments (15) be included in these outreaches, as they employ a large portion of the territory’s population. This public awareness campaign was rooted in the idea of “delivering the constitution to the people”. It sought out individuals from all walks of life, and provided an opportunity for them to learn about the constitution and be a part of the conversations surrounding the proposed amendments. Diverse audiences fostered inclusive conversations that represented all the different demographics in American Samoa.

A partnership with the Department of Youth & Women’s Affairs saw the organization of a Constitutional Carnival aimed at informing and including our youth in constitutional conversations. This was a family oriented event that gave all individuals (parents, children and the general community at large) the opportunity to learn about the 11 proposed amendments through fun and educational games. Each of these events was targeted at increasing community participation in the democratic process that is the Amendment Pathway - whether that was through holding informed conversations, voting in the official referendum, or participating in the review committee and convention.

2022 Constitutional Referendum Results

The Official Constitutional Referendum was held on November 8th, 2022. 5 out of the 11 proposed amendments were approved by our people. 6 were not approved. The amendments that were approved by the people of American Samoa were the Swains Island Amendment (#6), the Accountability Amendment (#8), the ASG to GAS Amendment (#9), the Ma’oputasi Amendment (#10), and the Leasina ma Aitulagi Amendment (#11). The next step in this Amendment Pathway is to submit the approved amendments to the Department of Interior for the Secretary of Interior's approval.

Part IV: Analysis

I. Overcoming Constitutional Stagnation

The last time American Samoa’s Constitution was amended was in 1979 when the Secretary of Interior still had unilateral authority to amend the Constitution.

These amendments were for Article II, Section 8 which changed the length of the legislative sessions from 30 to 45 days, and Article II, Section 20 which changed the manner of appointment of the counsel and changed grade level.

In 1983 with the passage of P.L. 98-213, Sec. 12, 97 Stat. 1462 (codified as 48 U.S.C. Sec. 1662a), the power of amendment was transferred from the Secretary of Interior to Congress. Section 12 states:

“Amendments of, or modifications to, the constitution of American Samoa, as approved by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to Executive Order 10264 as in effect January 1, 1983, may be made only by Act of Congress.”

A third Constitutional Convention was held in 1984, but its proposed changes were withdrawn because of objections raised by the U.S. Justice Department, and then further changes proposed in

1986 were “rejected by the Samoan electorate, primarily due to proposed changes in the selection of the Samoan Senate.”¹

There have been 5 constitutional referendums on the “Veto Override” amendment. None of them passed. These referendums were in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2018. (The 2010 referendum was part of an “All or Nothing” package after the 2010 Constitutional Convention.). The veto override amendment for this year’s 2022 referendum (amendment #3) did not pass.

With the passage of 5 amendments in the 2022 Referendum, American Samoa has its best chance in 43 years to break out of constitutional stagnation.

What was the likely determining factor in breaking out of stagnation? Unlike the “All or Nothing” format used in the 2010 Constitutional Referendum, each of the 11 proposed amendments were separate. This allowed voters the freedom to choose “Yes” or “No” on each amendment separately. He or she could vote “Yes” on one amendment and “No” on the other.

II. Interpretation of Amendments

#1, #2, #3. Amendments to Develop Local Self-Government: NONE PASSED

#1	The Governor shall appoint the Chief Justice and Associate Justices subject to confirmation by the Legislature.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O le a filifilia e le Kovana le Faamasino Sili, ma Sui Faamasino Sili ae faamaonia e le Fono Faitulafono.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#2	The Secretary of Interior shall not have the power to change the decisions of the High Court of American Samoa.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O le a le toe iai se pule a le Failautusi o le Initeria e sui ai faai’uga a le Faamasinoga Maualuga o Amerika Samoa.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#3	The Secretary of Interior shall not have the power to change the Legislature’s override of the Governor’s Veto.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O le a le toe iai se pule a le Failautusi o le Initeria e sui ai le faaleagaina e le Fono le vito a le Kovana.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

- 66%, 60.0% and 62% voted “No” respectively on Amendments #1, #2, and #3.

#1 Chief Justice	Yes	2300	34%
	No	4536	66%
	TOTAL ²	6836	
#2 High Court	Yes	2743	40%
	No	4106	60%
	TOTAL	6,849	
#3 Veto Override	Yes	2573	38%
	No	4227	62%
	TOTAL	6790	

• Amendments #1, #2, and #3 were similarly aimed at developing local self-government. They spoke to our relations with the Secretary of Interior. Developing and strengthening local government depends on **increasing** the authority of the American Samoa Government while **decreasing** the authority of the Secretary of Interior.

• If the majority had voted “Yes”, then American Samoa would have been looking at increased levels of local self-government with respect to the courts and the legislature. Because the majority voted “No” American Samoa’s relationship with the Secretary of Interior remains the same in these areas.

#4: The Legislative Reapportionment Amendment: NOT PASSED

#4	This amendment shall add one (1) seat to Representative District–Ituau and, add one (1) seat to Representative District –Tualauta. The total number of Representatives would increase from 20 to 22.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a faaopoopo ai le Faipule e tasi (1) i le Ituau ma se Faipule e tasi (1) i Ma’upu (Tualauta). O le a sui ai le aofa’i o Faipule mai le 20 i le 22.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

#4 The Legislative Reapportionment Amendment	Yes	3338	49%
	No	3409	51%
	Total	6,747	

² The “Total” votes were calculated by the Office of Constitutional Review.

Across American Samoa, the vote was very close with only a 2% difference between the “Yes” and “No” votes. This is a difference of 71 votes.

At the district level, the % gap was much wider. Of the two districts that would have benefited from an additional Representative, 38% of the voters in Ituau and 38% of the voters of Tualauta voted “No” on the amendment.

#5: The “Malaeimi” Amendment: NOT PASSED

#5	This amendment shall include “Malaeimi” in Representative District No. 12 – Ituau.”	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a aofia ai “Malaeimi” i le Itumalo Faafaipule o le Ituau.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

#5 The Malaeimi Amendment	Yes	3216	47%
	No	3583	53%
	Total	6,799	

Why is Malaeimi in question?

The “**pitonu’u**” of Malaeimi lies between Ituau and Tualauta districts. Malaeimi is listed in the US Census but not in the Constitution.

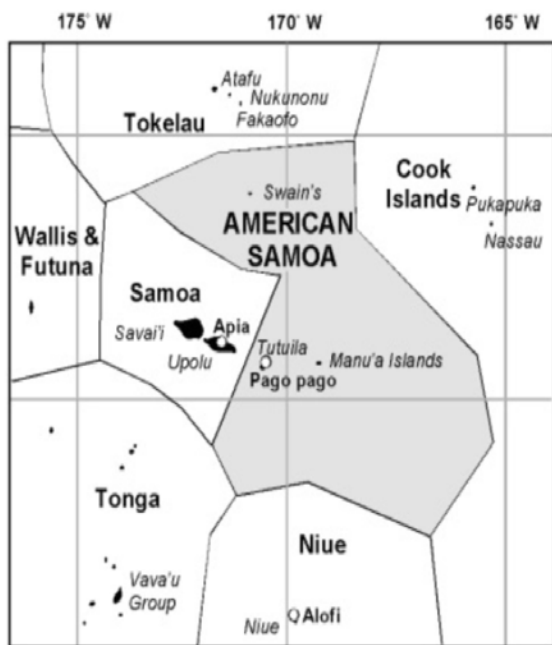
American Samoa-wide, there was a little more than 5% difference in the vote for this amendment. 61% of Ituau voted “Yes”. In Tualauta district there was an even split -- 50% “Yes” and 50% voted “No.”

#6: The “Swains Island” Amendment: PASSED at 56%.

#6	This amendment will give the delegate from Swains Island the right to vote in the House of Representatives.	YES/IOE <input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a tuuina atu ai i le Faipule o Swains le aia tataua e palota ai i le Maota o Sui.	NO/LEAI <input type="radio"/>

This amendment was an attempt to bring about more “Fair Representation” for Swains Island which has been a part of American Samoa since 1925.

The amendment also acknowledges the additional ocean resources added to American Samoa’s EEZ due to the northern location of Swains Island.



The result was a surprise as 56% of the voters voted “Yes.”

#6 The Swains Island Amendment	Yes	3893	56%
	No	3008	44%
	Total	6901	

At the district level, the majority of voters in Vaifanua and Maoputasi 3, 4, and 5 voted “No” on this amendment.

#7: The “Manu’a Senators” Amendment: NOT PASSED

#7	This amendment will restore five (5) Senators to Manu’a. The total number of Senators would increase from 18 to 20.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a toe fa’aotoa ai le lima (5) o Senatoa o Manu’a. O le a sui ai le aofa’i o Senatoa mai le 18 i le 20.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

#7 The Manu’a Amendment	Yes	2593	38%
	No	4299	62%
	Total	6892	

This amendment was an attempt to bring about more “Fair Representation” in the Senate by restoring Manu’a to five (5) Senators.

American Samoa-wide 62% voted “No” on this amendment.

At the district level, 27% of Manu’a 1 and 24% of Manu’a 2 voted “No” on the amendment. None of the fifteen (15) districts of Tutuila and Aunuu supported the amendment.

#8: The “Accountability” Amendment: PASSED at 61%.

#8	This amendment shall include an impeachment process of the Governor and Lt. Governor.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga e auiliili ai faagasologa e faatula’i ai le Kovana poo le Kovana Lutena.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

#8 The Accountability Amendment	Yes	4094	61%
	No	2663	39%
	Total	6757	

Amendments #9, #10, and #11: Name Changes. ALL PASSED.

#9	This amendment shall change the name “Government of American Samoa” to “American Samoa Government”.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a suia ai le “Government of American Samoa” i le “American Samoa Government”.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#10	This amendment shall change “Ma’uputasi” to “Ma’oputasi”.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a suia ai le “Ma’uputasi” i le “Ma’oputasi”.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>
#11	This amendment shall change “Leasina” to “Leasina ma Aitulagi”.	YES/IOE	<input type="radio"/>
	O lenei suiga o le a suia ai “Leasina” ia “Leasina ma Aitulagi”.	NO/LEAI	<input type="radio"/>

All these amendments passed with a majority vote.

#9 GAS to ASG	Yes	3926	58%
	No	2859	42%
	TOTAL	6785	
#10 Ma'oputasi	Yes	3932	58%
	No	2831	42%
	TOTAL	6763	
#11 "Aitulagi"	Yes	3797	56%
	No	3022	44%
	TOTAL	6819	

It's noteworthy that for Amendment #11, 106 or 55% of the voters in Leasina district voted "No" on the amendment. 87 or 45% of the voters in Leasina district voted "Yes" for the amendment.

A majority of the voters in this district were not in support of the amendment.

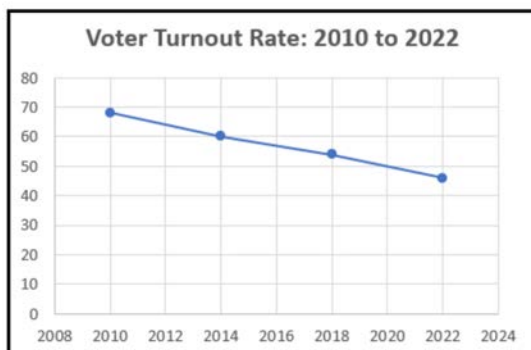
Note: District #3 Vaifanua was the only district that did not pass any of the amendments.

III. Voter Turnout

At the territory-wide level, the table and graph below paint a picture of decline in voter turnout in Mid-Term Election Years.

Year	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	Percent Voted
2010	16124	11,019	68%
2014	16780	10,120	60%
2018	15527	8462	54%
2022	14313	6637	46%

Source: 2022 Candidate Manual American Samoa Election Office



At the district level, it was expected that districts in which candidates ran unopposed would have lower voter turnout than other districts. This was not true in the case of Sua #2 which had a turnout rate of 46%.

Saole and Tualauta had opposition candidates but their voter turnouts were still below the average of 46%.

The following districts had lower % of voter turnout than the average of 46%. All other voting districts had voter % higher than the average.

District	Total Votes	Registered Voters	Turnout %
#4 Saole	222	535	41%
#5 Sua 1*	210	607	35%
#7 Maoputasi 1*	169	467	36%
#9 Maoputasi 3*	397	881	45%
#15 Tualauta	1169	3085	38%
#17 Leasina*	192	516	37%

*Districts in which candidates ran unopposed.

Why examine voter turnout?

Studies on voter turnout create “awareness about the extent of people’s participation in elections, but also, and more importantly, helps electoral stakeholders to make informed policy decisions and programmatic choices to improve the legitimacy of the electoral process. [They] also encourage election authorities, policymakers and other stakeholders to take serious action to increase voter participation, and at the same time to improve data collection methods in order to better understand voter behavior.

Samoan Language Commission

The Samoan Language Commission (SLO) was established during the 37th legislative session as the newly created chapter 17 in Title A.S.C.A, which reads: *Chapter 17 Samoan Language Commission of American Samoa*. It consists of eleven members appointed by the Governor according to stipulations in the subject law to be confirmed by the legislature. They first convened on September 22, 2022. Members serve staggered four-year terms and may be reappointed. The SLO office is headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Governor with a supporting staff that includes an administrative assistant and a researcher.

The Commission’s duties and powers are detailed in provisions in the said law. The main focus is to promote, preserve, and guide the development of the Samoan language. The faaSamoa is inextricably linked to the culture as a living heritage and common means of communication cultivating diversity and human creativity.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 4 Months since its establishment

- Defined linkage with Samoan Affairs as government agent for connection with language at grassroots level.
- Introduced reviewing government schools and ASCC Samoan Language Institute missions to ensure emphasis on standard Samoan Language preservation.

- Initiated collaboration on promoting Samoan language with government agencies in general, starting with upgrading and compiling Samoan translations for each agent's title.
- Initiated partnership with media agencies, i.e. TV, radio, and newspapers, to promote usage of standard Samoan language and translations for public broadcast.
- Touched basis with mainline churches to promote standard language usage, with emphasis on Bible as classic standard.
- Created database listing of common errors in word and expressions for public referencing as one of the approaches to preserve standard language.

Samoan Heritage Initiative Program: Upega Matalili'i

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration revitalized the Samoan Heritage Initiative Program in Hawai'i as the administration believes that it is a responsibility to not only ensure that the Samoan heritage and culture is taught and honored, but to also plant seeds of hope in our Samoan youth, so they may return home and ultimately serve the Samoan community.

The Samoa Heritage Initiative Program (SHIP) was held from August 6th through the 12th in Honolulu, Hawai'i, hosted by the American Samoa Government - Hawai'i Office. The four pillars of the 2022 SHIP are culture, language, health, and the future of all Samoan people home and abroad. The week-long festivities included the following:

- Opening Church Service
- Traditional Welcoming Ava Ceremony
- Job Fair/ Employment Recruitment
- Cricket, Basketball and Volleyball League
- The E lelei le Alofa o le Atua Scholarship Night
- Performances from various Samoan Church groups



Office of Samoan Affairs

With the community spread of COVID-19 into the Territory, the Office of Samoan Affairs was forced to reprioritize their goals with adequate and necessary changes to safely address the effects of the crisis. This reprioritization was made to ensure the safety of employees as well as welfare of the people. This required a reshuffling of personnel, coupled with the reassignment of responsibilities not including additional duties related to the crisis. As a result, the normal course of events for OSA was completely altered which resulted in a drop in usual OSA activities relative to lands and titles while the pandemic related activities increased dramatically. The OSA do plan to fully return to its norm by the beginning of Year 2023 and continue to operate in full capacity with its manpower and responsibilities.

Case Load:

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic Restrictions, cases were rescheduled and put on hold from February 20, 2022 until restrictions were lifted in August 2022.

Cases Referred from American Samoa Office of Registrar for Year 2022:

- Matai Titles: 7

- Land Registration Cases: 5

Cases Refer from High Court of American Samoa Year 2022:

- Matai Titles: 3
- Land Registration Cases: 0

Hearings Conducted for Year 2022:

- Matai Titles: 15
- Communal Land Disputes: 6
- Miscellaneous Disputes: 8

Cases Resolved Year 2022:

- Matai Titles: 4
- Communal Land Disputes: 2
- Miscellaneous Disputes: 6

Mediation Process and Dispute Resolution Reports Completed:

- Matai Titles: 4
- Land Disputes: 2

Certificate of Irreconcilable Dispute:

- Matai Titles: Pending 4
- Land Disputes: Pending 2

Samoan Affairs Personnel COVID-19 Involvement

On February 20th 2022 after an emergency meeting of government leaders, a restriction for the COVID-19 Pandemic was issued. American Samoa remained under restrictions until the month of August 2022 and case hearings were scheduled to begin on September 13th 2022. However, the Office of Samoan Affairs Personnel to include all village Mayors and County Chiefs were called in for an emergency meeting. OSA personnel, Village Mayors, and County Chiefs were tasked with the followings responsibilities:

- Monitor Communities in regards to COVID-19 Restrictions
- Assist Department of Education with Food Distribution to Families
- Monitor arriving passengers (HA/SA) in regards to COVID-19 Restrictions
- Assist Department of Education with School Lunch Distribution
- Assist with Tsunami Warning System
- Assist with Emergency Situations (Manu'a / Earthquake)
- Assist with any government function or activity

American Samoa Historic Preservation Office

The American Samoa Historic Preservation is responsible for preserving our land, culture, and history by reviewing all federally funded undertakings in accordance with the National Preservation Act of 1966. ASHPO ensures that disturbance to our land, and its natural resources are well documented for the future of our Territory. Some ongoing major infrastructure projects that have been documented due to possible adverse effects on Historic Properties are:

- Pago Pago International Airport Apron Rehabilitation Project
- Ofu Runway Rehabilitation Project
- DOE Infrastructure Improvement Projects
- Department of Public Works Federal Highway Rehabilitation Projects
- American Samoa Power Authority Sewer line and New Waterline installation Projects
- Fagaima Drainage - FEMA funded project

Department of Administrative Services-The Office of Archives and Records Management

The four current components of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) are the Administrative Bldg/ Security/Maintenance/Mailroom; the Print Shop; Office of Archives and Records Management; and the Government Housing Division. Accomplishments of Administrative Services for year 2022 are as follows:

- The Department moved forward with the Administration’s vision for the development of the Tafuna Housing area by assisting with the demolition of old government housing and office units to make Way for new DOE offices and a new car lot enterprise. Other areas were also cleared for a future Hospital site and a Dept. of Commerce Technology and Innovation park. Assistance with an adjacent Lions Park DOC renovation was also conducted.
- Director accomplished a successful federal grant application this year via the American Samoa American Rescue Plan Act. A grant award of \$1,820,000 was confirmed by the ARPA office.
- Director and DAS divisions strengthened partnerships with other ASG agencies via onsite or online training, events and meetings. These included additional EOB Security Guard personnel from CIPA, TAOA and DHS during this year’s COVID19 surge, as well as renovation days at their DOE adopted school program at Vatia Elementary. An annual DHR/SYEP summertime intern program also engaged DAS with dozens of students learning about government jobs and services. Other partnerships were implemented with the Constitution Office and Governor’s House. DAS Archives partnered with the Friends of the Museum group, Amerika Samoa Arts Council and Feleti Barstow Library to unveil an historical Constitution mural and archival photo/document show at JPH Museum for Archives Month.
- The Print Shop completed 205 of 241 print job requests (performance rate of 85%)
- Archives maintained and advanced numerous functions during FY2022, including:
 - 343 ASG or Public research requests for retrievals, info or copies.
 - 42 Certified Statements for Birth Verifications or One U.S.N. Parent Law Passport Evidence
 - 9 ASG RM storage transfer/acknowledgments totaling 141 boxes processed and databased
 - 25 Finding Guides to local history, lands, Matai Land cases, Fono laws, etc. were drafted
 - 989 Microfilm images of early 1961-68 Legislature Bills, Public Laws were digitized
 - A quantity of significant historical ASG documents, photos & microfilms were digitized
 - COVID19 two week quarantines of incoming record box transfers were implemented.
 - Online 1901-1974 Matai/Land cases is being prepared by and for <https://www.Familysearch.org>
 - Historical images and transcriptions of the 2022 Constitution Convention were made for archiving
- EOB satellite facilities at Ofu-Olosega/Ta’u Manu’a were improved with increased staff, materials, and equipment.

American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities

American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities (ASCACH) hosts a variety of activities for arts programming, personnel, and the museum geared at encouraging and preserving the traditional arts of American Samoa. Although the COVID-19 shutdown affected regularly scheduled programs, below are some of the ASCACH Projects that were able to be carried out in 2022.

Poetry Out Loud Competition

Although the COVID shutdown had imposed on regular development of programming, the ASCACH was still able to complete one of its Recurring Priority Programs, the “TERRIES 2022”. Orchestrated virtually, the classroom level and school level competitions had transpired to present school champions for the state/territory level, the “TERRIES”. And after 7 local schools had competed, Samoana High School’s Audrey-Rose Sevaaetasi became a repeat champion. She went on to compete virtually at the National Regional level. Mia Ronn of California was the National champion for 2021- 2022. However, Ms. Sevaaetasi did champion the “Poetry Ourselves” Spoken category – this is a feat of which ASCACH is extremely proud, as it should be with the entire territory.

Annual Christmas Program and 45th Annual Holiday Music Festival

The American Samoa Government (ASG) Annual Christmas program returned after eight years and it was held at the Veteran affairs (VA) Memorial center at the Tafuna Industrial Park for the first time. ASG Departments, Agencies, and Authorities prepared and performed 3-4 Christmas carols on the first three nights (December 4 – 6). The ASCACH’s community program continued with Various Church groups and Private organizations sharing the art of music and song and ushering in the spiritedness of Christmas on December 7 – 10, 2022. The planning and set up of the ASG annual Christmas program included a Swapmeet with local vendors selling foods, arts and crafts, and retail. Families and friends gathered to watch different groups perform, shop at their local markets, and enjoyed the variety of food options at the event.



Our Path Forward

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration will continue building on infrastructure plans and implementing policies that will preserve our way of life in our Territory. We have been fortunate to have a Cabinet who share our goals and who continuously support the directives aimed at improving our way of life. It is the strong resolve of our people that fuels our efforts. Our infrastructure plans, while ambitious, are furthered by the support of our Cabinet and focused on addressing critical needs of our people.

Our Constitutional Referendum is at the core of our priorities for the upcoming years. Our people have spoken and we have delivered their voice to the Secretary of the Interior. While we are a small Territory, we are a force to be reckoned with when we unite under a common cause. Amending our constitution to reflect the growing and changing demands of our people is the very essence of democracy. We remain adamant in realizing the amendments we, as a people, have voted on. It is evident that our people are primed to actively participate in shaping the future of our Territory.

Among our priorities is working with our Legislature in enacting legislation to address issues with Federal grant fund awards, minimize hazards that threaten our environment, amend our tax code to better serve the needs of our hard-working people and approve a supplemental budget for Fiscal Year 2023.

The supplemental budget legislation will further drive efforts to address infrastructure deficiencies and improve on projects and programs that serve the needs of our growing population. Improving our roads, fortifying our seawall, erecting buildings that will provide essential services are among the projects we plan to see through. The road ahead may have its hurdles but we remain firm in the belief that our collaborative efforts will meet those hurdles with solutions to successfully achieve infrastructure plans set in place.

While the threat of COVID is now at bay, we continue to work with LBJ and DOH to improve our capacity to respond to any impending health crises. At the forefront of our capacity building are the plans for a new and improved medical facility. Our growing population demands urgent action to address gaps in our current medical and health facilities. It is our responsibility as leaders to ensure our people have access to adequate health care services. Active plans are in process to begin construction in the coming year. We are optimistic that we will see this critical infrastructure plan to fruition.

The Lemanu-Talauega Administration will forge ahead with reforms that we fervently believe are necessary for us to move forward as a US Territory, a Pacific Island nation, and as a people. We have not lost sight of our shared conviction in improving government services, fortifying our community, and empowering our people. Together we secure the best future for American Samoa.

Executive Branch: Cabinet Listing 2022			
Authorities		Name	Title
1	American Samoa Community College (ASCC)	Dr. Rosevonne M. Pato	President
2	American Samoa Medical Center Authority (ASMCA-LBJ)	Moefa'auo William Emmsley	Chief Executive Officer
3	American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA)	Wallon Young	Chief Executive Officer
4	American Samoa Shipyard Authority (ASSA)	Carlos Sanchez	Chief Executive Officer
5	American Samoa Telecommunications Authority (ASTCA)	Chuck Leota	Chief Executive Officer
6	American Samoa Visitors Bureau (ASVB)	Taimalelagi Minnie Tuia	Executive Director
7	American Samoa Development Authority (ASEDA)	Blanche Lulu Barber	Executive Director
8	Development Bank of American Samoa (DBAS)	Ruth Matagi	President
9	Feleti Barstow Public Library (FBPL)	Emma Solaita Malele	Territorial Librarian
10	Territorial Bank of American Samoa (TBAS)	David A. Buchler	President
Departments/Offices/Agencies		Name	Title
1	Administrative Law Judge (ALJ)	Marie Alailima-Lafaale	Administrative Law Judge
2	Administrative Services (DAS)	Afalava E. Afalava	Director
3	Agriculture (DOA)	Solia I. Mutini	Director
4	American Samoa Corrections Agency	Leone Faiai	Warden
5	American Samoa Council on Arts, Culture, & Humanities (ASCACH)	Fuata S. Tiualu	Director
6	Commerce (DOC)	Petti Tagipo Matila	Director
7	Education (DOE)	Talauega Dr. Samasoni Asaeli	Director
8	Election Office (EO)	Dr. Lealofi Uiagalelei	Commissioner
9	Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA)	Lefega Faamao Asalele Jr.	Director
10	Homeland Security (AS-DHS)	Samana S. Veavea	Director
11	Human & Social Services (DHSS)	Muavaefaatasi J. Suisala	Director
12	Human Resources (DHR)	Lynn Pulou-Alaimalo	Director
13	Legal Affairs (DLA)	Fainu'ulelei F. Ala'ilima Utu	Attorney General
14	Marine & Wildlife Resources (DMWR)	Taotasi A. Soliai	Director
15	Office of Financial Institutions	John Marsh	Commissioner
16	Parks & Recreation (DPR)	Kenneth S. Tupua	Director
17	Port Administration (DPA)	Christopher J. King	Director
18	Procurement (OP)	Ti'alemasunu Dr. Mikaele Etuale	Director
19	Program, Planning and Budget Office (OPB)	Catherine A. Saelua	Director
20	Property Management (OPM)	Poleen N. Asalele	Director
21	Protection & Advocacy for the Disabled (OPAD)	Matautu Dr. Peter Tinitali	Director
22	Public Defender (PD)	David Vargas	Public Defender
23	Public Health (DOH)	Motusa T. Nua	Director
24	Public Information (OPI)	Aaron Hall	Director
25	Public Safety (DPS)	PC Lefiti F. Pese	Commissioner
26	Public Works (DPW)	Faleosina Voigt	Director
27	Samoa Affairs - Local Government (OSA)	PC Mauga T. Asuega	Secretary of Samoan Affairs
28	Search and Rescue Agency	Fa'amasino Upuese Galoia	Director
29	Territorial Administration on Aging (TAOA)	Evelyn Lili'o Satele	Director
30	Treasury (DTR)	Malemo L. Tausaga	Treasurer
31	Youth & Women's Affairs (DYWA)	Dr. Salote Aoelua-Fanene	Director
GO Line Agencies		Name	Title
1	American Rescue Plan Oversight Office (ARPA)	Keith Gebauer	Executive Director
2	American Samoa Office-Hawaii	Tuiafono V. Sua	Director
3	Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA)	Mariana Timu-Faiai	Director
4	Governor's Resilience Office	Amaamalele Tofaono	Executive Director
5	Historic Preservation (ASHPO)	Tuimalo E. Pau'u Zodiacal	Director
6	Insurance Commission Office	Ben Te'o	Insurance Commissioner
7	Medicaid State Agency	Sandra King-Young	Director
8	Office of Disaster Assistance and Petroleum Management (ODAPM)	Lisa Tuato'o	Director
9	Samoan Language Commssion	Tialuga Seloti	Executive Director
10	Sports Complex (SC)	Uta'ifeau Lefiu Bill Kalasa	Director
11	Territorial Audit Office (TAO)	Tofa Sualauvi Su'a	Acting Territorial Auditor
12	Territorial Energy Office (TEO)	Dr. Misipati A. Salanoa	Director
13	Veteran's Affairs Office (VA)	Paepaetele M. Jamias	Director
14	Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)	Poumele P. Poumele	Director
15	Workmen's Compensation Commission (WCC)	Sagatea Filoiali'i	Commissioner
16	Samoan Language Commssion	Tialuga Seloti	Executive Director